

lonely planet

language survival kit

Japanese phrasebook



Japanese Phrasebook
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Introduction

Virtually every citizen of Japan is an ethnic Japanese and speaks Japanese. A very ethnically homogeneous nation, the only minorities in Japan are about 600,000 Koreans and the few thousand Ainu of Hokkaido Island. Most of the Koreans were brought to Japan as slave labourers between 1910 and 1945 when Korea was a Japanese colony. The 'round-eyed' and bearded Ainu were the original inhabitants of Japan but were pushed into the far north by the Yamato people who we now think of as the Japanese. Today there are far more foreign businesspeople in Japan than there are Ainu.

Even the most arrogant of the first western visitors to Japan remarked upon the politeness of the Japanese. Although Japanese exclusiveness ('we Japanese versus outsiders') irks many foreigners, the Japanese remain extraordinarily polite toward visitors. The Japanese tend to be reserved but very friendly and helpful if you break the ice.

The Japanese language is a member of the Tungusic-Altaic language group which includes Mongolian and Korean. Japanese is structurally quite different from Chinese. However, since they didn't have a writing system of their own, the Japanese began using Chinese characters (*kanji*) between the 5th and 9th centuries. In the 9th century the Japanese devised a phonetic syllabary called *kana* to supplement the ideographic *kanji* with Japanese verb inflections and particles. To make matters even more complicated, two different *kana* syllabaries evolved: *hiragana* for writing native words and *katakana* for writing foreign words.

Although some Japanese tend to be suspicious of foreigners who speak their language too fluently, they greatly appreciate any effort by visitors to use their language. Many Japanese speak at least a little English and bewildered-looking foreigners will often be approached with an offer of help.

This book is designed to help you travel independently and to communicate your needs and ideas without offence. It is by no means a text for learning the complexities of Japanese grammar. Learning Japanese is, however, very rewarding and it is hoped that this book will whet the reader's appetite to learn more. For a humorous introduction to the Japanese language pick up a copy of Jack Seward's *Japanese in Action* (John Weatherhill Inc, New York and Tokyo, 1968).

Good luck in your travels. *Umaku iku yō ni!*



Pronunciation

It's fairly easy for English speakers to pronounce Japanese. There is also very little variance in stress. Equal weight is given to every syllable of a word unless it has a lengthened vowel sound, in which case the duration of the sound is doubled. Although pitch is important in Japanese, simply following the pronunciation guide will allow you to be understood.

Throughout this phrasebook you will find both Japanese script and the romanised (*romaji*) forms of writing used side-by-side. Although it takes some dedication to learn the 2000 *kanji* necessary to read most Japanese writing, learning the *kana* syllabaries (*hiragana* and *katakana*) is a useful task that can be done in a few days. Use the chart overleaf to memorise them.

Vowels

a	as 'a' in 'father'
i	as 'i' in 'macaroni'
u	as 'u' in 'flu'
e	as 'e' in 'get'
o	as 'o' in 'lot'

Vowels appearing in this book with a bar over them (*ā, ē, ī, ō, ū*) are pronounced long - about twice as long as regular vowels. This is a vital difference, as anyone who has confused *komon* (adviser) with *kōmon* (anus) can tell you.

The 'u' in the common polite verb *desu* (am, is, are) is muted and hardly pronounced at all.

KATAKANA

ア a	イ i	ウ u	エ e	オ o															
カ ka	キ ki	ク ku	ケ ke	コ ko	ガ ga	ギ gi	グ gu	ゲ ge	ゴ go										
サ sa	シ shi	ス su	セ se	ソ so	ザ za	ジ ji	ズ zu	ゼ ze	ゾ zo										
タ ta	チ chi	ツ tsu	テ te	ト to	ダ da	ヂ ji	ヅ zu	デ de	ド do										
ナ na	ニ ni	ヌ nu	ネ ne	ノ no	<table><tr><td>バ ba</td><td>ビ bi</td><td>ブ bu</td><td>ベ be</td><td>ボ bo</td></tr><tr><td>パ pa</td><td>ピ pi</td><td>プ pu</td><td>ペ pe</td><td>ポ po</td></tr></table>					バ ba	ビ bi	ブ bu	ベ be	ボ bo	パ pa	ピ pi	プ pu	ペ pe	ポ po
バ ba	ビ bi	ブ bu	ベ be	ボ bo															
パ pa	ピ pi	プ pu	ペ pe	ポ po															
ハ ha	ヒ hi	フ fu	ヘ he	ホ ho															
マ ma	ミ mi	ム mu	メ me	モ mo															
ヤ ya		ユ yu		ヨ yo															
ラ ra	リ ri	ル ru	レ re	ロ ro															
ワ wa				ヲ o															
ン n																			

HIRAGANA

あ a	い i	う u	え e	お o																				
か ka	き ki	く ku	け ke	こ ko	が ga	ぎ gi	ぐ gu	げ ge	ご go															
さ sa	し shi	す su	せ se	そ so	ざ za	じ ji	ず zu	ぜ ze	ぞ zo															
た ta	ち chi	つ tsu	て te	と to	だ da	ぢ ji	づ zu	で de	ど do															
な na	に ni	ぬ nu	ね ne	の no	<table><tr><td>ば ba</td><td>び bi</td><td>ぶ bu</td><td>べ be</td><td>ぼ bo</td></tr><tr><td>ぱ pa</td><td>ぴ pi</td><td>ぷ pu</td><td>ぺ pe</td><td>ぽ po</td></tr></table>										ば ba	び bi	ぶ bu	べ be	ぼ bo	ぱ pa	ぴ pi	ぷ pu	ぺ pe	ぽ po
ば ba	び bi	ぶ bu	べ be	ぼ bo																				
ぱ pa	ぴ pi	ぷ pu	ぺ pe	ぽ po																				
は ha	ひ hi	ふ fu	へ he	ほ ho																				
ま ma	み mi	む mu	め me	も mo																				
や ya		ゆ yu		よ yo																				
ら ra	り ri	る ru	れ re	ろ ro																				
わ wa				を o																				
ん n																								

Consonants

Consonants are pronounced the same as in English, with the following exceptions:

- f** where 'f', sometimes romanised as 'h', appears in romanised Japanese it should be pronounced much lighter than in English – the easiest way to approximate this Japanese sound is to purse the lips and blow lightly
- g** if a word starts with a 'g', it is given a hard sound as in 'goal'; In the middle of a word it is often nasalised as 'ng'
- n** given a more nasal sound than in English when it occurs as a final consonant – otherwise like the 'n' in 'no'
- r** pronounced with the tip of the tongue quickly touching the ridge just behind the upper front teeth; somewhere between an 'l' and an 'r'
- s** always given a hard sound as in 'saw'

Double consonants are pronounced as separate syllables. *kissaten* (coffee shop), for example, is pronounced as *kis-saten*.



Grammar

Word Order

Unlike English, where the word order is subject-verb-object, the word order of a Japanese sentence is subject-object-verb. In other words, while in English we would say:

Who hit the ball?

a Japanese would say the equivalent of:

Who the ball hit?

In speech, unnecessary words are omitted from the sentence. The Japanese rely upon the listener to determine the meaning by context. Often the verb phrase is all there is to a sentence, leaving the listener to figure out who is being talked about.

Verbs

The verb is the most important part of the sentence. The Japanese penchant for omitting superfluous information often leaves the verb clause as the entire sentence. Verbs remain unchanged no matter how many people are being talked about. Thus *ikimasu* can mean: I go, you go, he (she, it) goes, we go, and they go.

Politeness

Japanese verbs take endings that express politeness. The addition of *masu* to a verb makes it both more polite and,

fortunately for the non-native speaker, easier to conjugate. *Masu* forms have been used throughout this book. For some examples of how they inflect, see the 'Tense' section.

Tense

Verbs only have the present and past tenses. The future tense is indicated by the present tense used in combination with time indicating adverbs such as 'next month'.

Here are some examples of how a few common verbs are conjugated:

verb	polite ending	past tense	negative
to go	go	went	doesn't go
<i>iku</i>	<i>ikimasu</i>	<i>ikimashita</i>	<i>ikimasen</i>
to come	come	came	doesn't come
<i>kuru</i>	<i>kimasu</i>	<i>kimashita</i>	<i>kimasen</i>
to drink	drink	drank	doesn't drink
<i>nomu</i>	<i>nomimasu</i>	<i>nomimashita</i>	<i>nomimasen</i>
to eat	eat	ate	doesn't eat
<i>taberu</i>	<i>tabemasu</i>	<i>tabemashita</i>	<i>tabemasen</i>
to have	have	had	doesn't have
<i>aru</i>	<i>arimasu</i>	<i>arimashita</i>	<i>arimasen</i>

Desu

We can think of *desu* as roughly equivalent to the verb 'to be' in English, eg:

I am Australian.

watashi wa ōsutorariajin desu

Negatives

To make most statements negative, replace *desu* (am, is, are) with *dewa arimasen*, sometimes, in informal Japanese, contracted to *ja arimasen*.

I am Australian.

watashi wa ōsutorariajin desu

I am not Australian.

watashi wa ōsutorariajin dewa arimasen

The *masu* ending, which is taken by all verbs other than *desu*, can be made negative by replacing the *su* ending with *sen*:

I speak Japanese.

watashi wa nihongo o hanashimasu

I don't speak Japanese.

watashi wa nihongo o hanashimasen

Adjectives

As in English, adjectives (and adverbs) precede the words they modify. Thus:

A cheap hotel.

yasui hoteru

Negative

In the negative, the *i* ending is replaced by *ku* and the verb *arimasen* added. Thus:

This hotel isn't cheap.

kono hoteru wa yasuku arimasen

Questions

A *ka* at the end of a sentence indicates a yes or no question. Simply add the particle *ka* after the verb. Thus:

This is a cheap hotel. *kore wa yasui hoderu desu*
Is this a cheap hotel? *kore wa yasui hoderu desu ka?*

For more specific questions the following question words are used:

who	who are you?
<i>donata</i> (polite)	<i>donata desu ka?</i>
<i>dare</i> (informal)	
which	which one is it?
<i>dochira</i> (polite)	<i>dochira desu ka?</i>
<i>dore</i> (informal)	
what	what are you doing?
<i>nan*</i>	<i>nani o shite imasu ka?</i>
<i>nani</i>	
where	where is it?
<i>doko</i>	<i>doko desu ka?</i>
when	when are you going?
<i>itsu</i>	<i>itsu ikimasu ka?</i>
how	how is it? (what's it like?)
<i>dō</i>	<i>dō desu ka?</i>
How many	
<i>ikutsu</i>	
How much	how much is it?
<i>ikura</i>	<i>ikura desu ka?</i>
Why	
<i>naze</i>	

**nan* before b, p, d, t, n, r, z, and *nani* before others

Yes & No

The word for 'no' is *iiie*. However, in most situations, a simple *iiie* will sound brusque to the Japanese. Make your 'no' a little more polite:

I'm sorry, but no. *iiie, sumimasen*

To say 'yes', you can either say *hai* or *hai* followed by the verb in the question. You will also hear the less emphatic *ee*.

Are you Australian? *anata wa ōsutorariajin desu ka?*
Yes, I'm Australian. *hai, ōsutorariajin desu*

Pronouns

Personal pronouns aren't used as often in Japanese as in English. They are often omitted if they are obvious from the context. Also, although the word for 'I' is romanised as *watakushi*, you are more likely to hear and use the slightly less formal *watashi* when you are interacting with Japanese. Add the polite suffix *wa* to pronouns when talking about others. Note the Japanese have no word for 'it', and that the pronouns 'he' (*kare*) and 'she' (*kanojo*) are more often than not replaced by phrases meaning 'that person'.

When speaking of people the suffix *tachi* can be added to a pronoun to indicate plurality.

I, me	<i>watakushi</i>
you	<i>anata</i>
he, she (that person)	<i>ano hito</i>
we, us	<i>watakushitachi</i>
you (plural)	<i>anatatachi</i>
they (those persons)	<i>ano hitotachi</i>

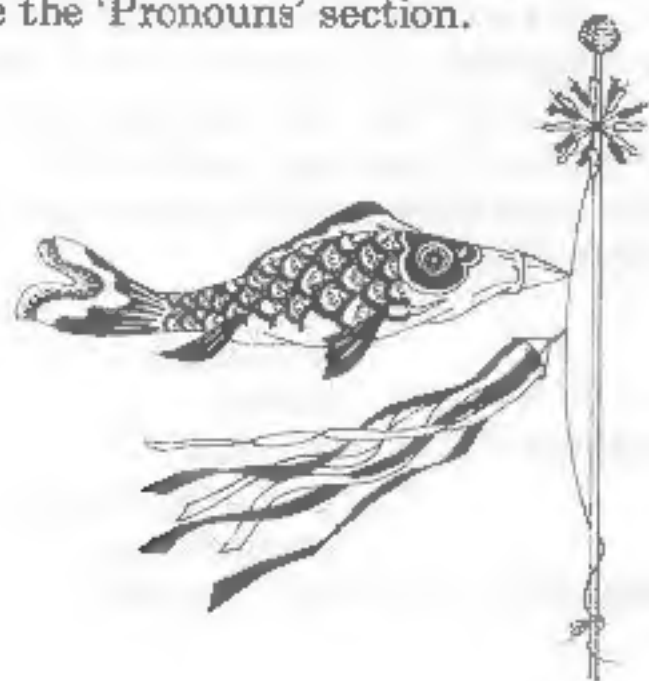
Demonstratives

Pronouns beginning with *ko* refer to 'this thing' or 'this place'; pronouns beginning with *so* refer to 'that thing' or 'that place' close to the person you are addressing; pronouns beginning with *a* refer to 'that place' or 'that thing' at a distance from both speaker and listener.

this/these	<i>kore</i>
that/those (close to you)	<i>sore</i>
that/those (far from you)	<i>are</i>
here	<i>koko</i>
there (close to you)	<i>soko</i>
there (far from you)	<i>asoko</i>

Nouns

Japanese nouns don't indicate number; *shokudō* can mean 'a restaurant', 'the restaurant', or 'restaurants'. The listener has to use context to guess how many restaurants are being talked about. The major exception is when speaking about people. See the 'Pronouns' section.

**Place Words**

These common place words are used after nouns to indicate relative location:

above <i>no ue ni</i>
behind <i>no ushiro ni</i>
beside <i>no soba ni</i>
front <i>no mae ni</i>
inside <i>no naka ni</i>
outside <i>no soto ni</i>
under <i>no shita ni</i>
opposite <i>no mukō ni</i>
inside the station	
inside the station	<i>eki no naka ni</i>
opposite the bank	<i>ginkō no mukō ni</i>

Particles

In Japanese, a number of particles attach themselves to words and phrases in order, basically, to indicate the relationship of the preceding word to the word or words that follow.

wa

The particle *wa* indicates that the preceding noun is the subject of the sentence:

I am an Australian. *watakushi wa ōsutorariajin desu*
I *wa* Australian am.

no

The particle *no*, placed between nouns, indicates that the second noun belongs to the first:

This is my luggage.

*kore wa watakushi no
nimotsu desu*
This *wa* I *no* luggage is.

o
A word followed by *o*, is the object of the sentence:

I speak Japanese. *watakushi wa nihongo o
hanashimasu*
I *wa* Japanese *o* speak.

Note that this is different to the *o* used as a polite prefix, which is the equivalent of saying 'honourable'. Don't add the *o* when speaking of your own situation.

How are you? *o-genki desu ka?*
o health is *ka*?

ni
The particle *ni* indicates location:

I live in Japan. *nihon ni sunde imasu*
Japan *ni* live.

de
The particle *de* indicates activity in a location:

I am travelling in Japan. *nihon de ryokō shite imasu*
Japan *de* travel doing am.

■ The particle *e* indicates movement towards a place:

I'm going to Japan. *nihon e ikimasu*
Japan *e* go.

kara
The particle *kara* indicates movement away from a place:

I'm going from Japan to China. *nihon kara chukoku e
ikimasu*
Japan *kara* China *e* go.

Uh
You will no doubt often hear the words *ano* and *eto* during your stay in Japan. They are not actually words, but the Japanese equivalents of the English 'uh'.

Uh, I don't know. *ano, wakarimasen*
Uh, excuse me. *eto, sumimasen*



Greetings & Civilities

Forms of Address

The Japanese equivalent of 'Mr', 'Mrs', or 'Miss' is *san*. It's an all-purpose polite suffix that should be added on to the family name. A person whose family name is Watanabe should be addressed as *watanabe-san*. The title *sama* serves the same purpose as *san* but is more formal. Never refer to yourself or anyone in your immediate family as *san* as this address is reserved as a means of showing respect to others.

Most Japanese have a two-part name consisting of a family name and a given name. Traditionally, the family name precedes the given name in writing or speech, but, since many Japanese switch the order to accommodate foreigners, it is best to ask which is the family name if you are unsure. Do not address acquaintances by their given names.

Very important words in Japanese are *dōzo* (please) and *arigatō gozaimasu* (thank you) - use them liberally. *Dōzo* can be used in situations such as inviting someone to be seated or to enter a doorway before you. *Arigatō gozaimasu* can be shortened to *arigatō* and is often used in conjunction with *dōmo*.

Attracting Someone's Attention

If you need to attract someone's attention, the Japanese equivalent of 'excuse me' is *sumimasen*. Before approaching someone for assistance of any kind it is polite to preface your question with this expression. In shops it is possible to call for attention with *gomen kudasai*.

Greetings

There is no real all purpose word for 'hello' in Japanese. Rather the Japanese use a number of different expressions at different times of the day.

Good morning

ohayō gozaimasu

おはようございます

Good afternoon,

konnichiwa

こんにちは

Good evening,

konbanwa

こんばんは

Hello (on the telephone)

moshi moshi

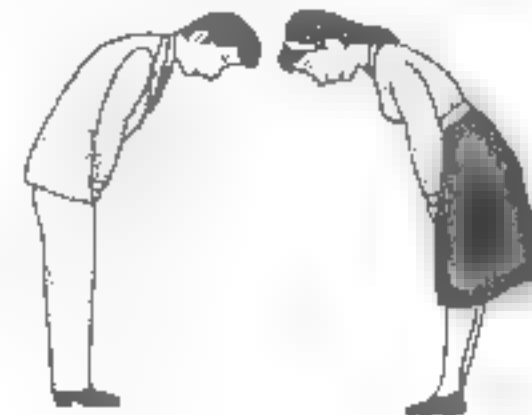
もしもし

Welcome

An important greeting you will hear when you enter Japanese homes, shops, restaurants, even lifts is *irasshaimase* (welcome). There is no need to respond.

Meeting People

When meeting for the first time, the Japanese have a number of expressions which correspond roughly to the English expressions 'how do you do' and 'pleased to meet you'. The speaker accompanies his/her introduction with a bow.



How do you do

*hajimemashite dōzo
yoroshiku*はじめましてどうぞ
よろしく

How do you do. (reply)

*hajimemashite kochira
koso yoroshiku*はじめましてこちらこそ
よろしく

Pleased to meet you.

yoroshiku onegaishimasu

よろしくおねがいします

Japanese has a greeting that is the equivalent of 'how are you?', but it is used far less frequently than in English. As a general rule, you should only ask someone if you have not seen them for several days:

How are you?

ogenki desu ka?

お元気ですか

How are you? (formal)

gokigen wa ikaga desu ka?

御機嫌はいかがですか

Fine, and you?

*okagesamade,
(name) san wa?*

おかげさまで...さんは

Goodbyes

Goodbye.

sayōnara

さようなら

See you later again.

ja mata

じゃまた

Goodnight

oyasumi nasai

お休みなさい

If you have to break off a conversation or take your leave from company, the polite thing to say is:

Excuse me. (literally,
'I'm going to be rude')*shitsurei shimasu*

失礼します

I have to go.

oitomashimasu

おいとまします

Thanking People

Japanese has a number of ways of expressing gratitude, the simplest of which being *dōmo* (thanks). More polite is the expression *arigatō gozaimasu*. You will often hear the two expressions piled on top of each other, *dōmo arigatō gozaimasu*.

Gifts

It is common for Japanese people to give gifts as an expression of gratitude for favours or when parting with friends. In formal situations the receiver often unwraps the gift when the giver has left.

Please accept this gift.

*tsumaranai mono desu
ga, dōzo*つまらない物ですが、
どうぞ

It's nothing special.

*taishita mono
dewa arimasen*たいした物では
ありません

Thankyou very much.

*dōmo arigatō gozaimasu*どうもありがとう
ございます**Other Civilities**

I'm happy to meet you.

hajimemashite

はじめまして

Please. (when presenting something)	どうぞ
<i>dōzo</i>	
Please. (when asking for something)	おねがいします
<i>onagai shimasu</i>	
No.	いいえ
<i>ie</i>	
Yes.	はい
<i>hai</i>	
You're welcome.	どういたしまして
<i>dō itashimashite</i>	
Excuse me.	すみません
<i>sumimasen</i>	
I'm sorry.	ごめんなさい
<i>gomen nasai</i>	
Do you understand?	わかりますか
<i>wakarimasu ka?</i>	
I don't understand.	わかりません
<i>wakarimasen</i>	
I understand.	わかります
<i>wakarimasu</i>	
Be careful.	気をつけて下さい
<i>ki o tsukete kudasai</i>	
This is Mr, Mrs, Miss	こちらは...さんです
<i>kochira wa san desu</i>	



Small Talk

Outside cosmopolitan Tokyo, don't be surprised to be approached by college-aged Japanese or young *saranmen* (salarymen) wanting to strike up a conversation. Although most Japanese are reluctant to try out their English or risk an embarrassing situation with a foreigner, their desire to be helpful will often overcome their reserve.

One of the most effective icebreakers you can use to meet Japanese (and vice versa) is to ask them to take your picture in front of something, anything. Approach them with your camera, smile and say *sumimasen* (excuse me), and point at your camera and then at your nose (the way Japanese signify 'me'). This invariably results in much smiling, bowing, and exploratory chit-chat if you follow the picture taking with any of the following questions:

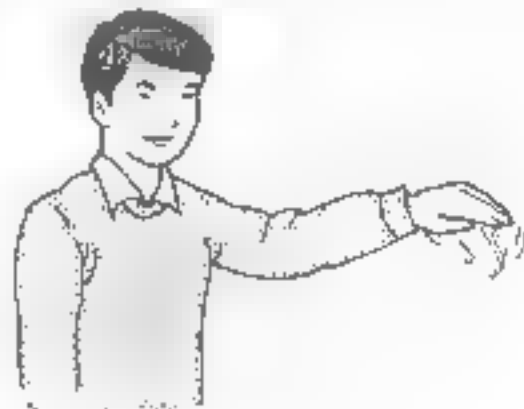
Are you a student?	あなたには学生ですか
<i>anata wa gakusei desu ka?</i>	
Where are you from?	どちらからいらっしゃいましたか
<i>dochira kara irashaimashita ka?</i>	
Are you on holiday?	休暇ですか
<i>kyūka desuka?</i>	
Have you been here before?	前にここに来たことがありますか
<i>mae ni koko ni kita koto ga arimasu ka?</i>	

Foreigners are so common in Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe, and Kyoto that you probably won't attract a second glance in these cities. Outside these major cities, however, you may turn a few heads. The Japanese word for foreigner, *gaijin*, may be murmured by passers by, or screamed by surprised motorists.

If you wish to beckon to someone, gesture with the palm facing down and the fingers fluttering up and down - never beckon or point with one finger. It would be a faux pas of equal magnitude to address someone by their given name. Always use the person's family name, preceded by a title such as Mr, Mrs or Miss.



indicating self



beckoning

Family Terms

Modesty is a great virtue in Japan and is expressed not only by action but also by vocabulary. Here are different words for what is yours and what is another's. Special respect words are used when speaking of another person's relatives.

father		
(one's own)	<i>chichi</i>	父
(others')	<i>otōsan</i>	お父さん

mother		
(one's own)	<i>haha</i>	母
(others')	<i>okasan</i>	お母さん
husband		
(one's own)	<i>shujin</i>	主人
(others')	<i>goshojin</i>	ご主人
wife		
(one's own)	<i>tsuma</i>	妻
(others')	<i>okusan</i>	おくさん
friend	<i>otomodachi</i>	お友たち

About Yourself

Expect to be asked questions about your age, what company you work for, and how many children you have. Learn a few phrases that tell others about yourself. Incidentally, if an acquaintance you bump into says "where are you going?" *dochira e?*, it's a common greeting and you aren't expected to give an explanation - a reply such as "just down the street" is polite.

Meeting People

May I ask your name?

o-namae wa nan desu ka? お名前は何ですか

My name is

namae wa desu 名前は...です

How old are you?

o-ikutsu desu ka? おいくつですか

(to children)

nansai desu ka? 何歳ですか

(to adults)

Please repeat that.

mō ichido itte kudasai もう一度言って下さい

Could you speak a little
more slowly please?

motto yukkuri ni hanashite もっとゆっくり話してく
kudasaimasu ka? ださいますか

Are you married?

kekkon shite imasu ka? 結婚していますか

Yes, I am

ee, kekkon shite imasu ええ, 結婚しています

No, I'm still single

ue, mada dokushin desu いいえ, まだ独身です

Do you have any children?

okosan ga irasshaimasu ka? お子さんがいらしゃい
ますか

No. *ue, imasen* いいえ, いません

Yes. *hai, imasu* はい, います

one *hitori imasu* (一人)

two *futari imasu* (二人)

three *sannin imasu* (三人)

Occupations

What is your occupation?

o-shigoto wa nan desu ka? お仕事は何ですか

I'm a...

watakushi wa. desu 私は...です

artist *geijutsuka* 芸術家

businessperson *byinesuman* ビジネスマン

carpenter *daku* 大工

doctor

isha

hairstresser

biyōshi

journalist

janarisuto

lawyer

bengoshi

police officer

keisatsukan

post office worker

yūbin haitatsujin

secretary

hisho

student

gakusei

teacher

kyōshi

waiter

ueitā

waitress

ueitoresu

Religion

I am...

watakushi wa..... desu

Buddhist

bukkyō

Christian

kirisuto kyo

Catholic

katoriku kyo

医者

美容師

ジャーナリスト

弁護士

警察官

郵便配達人

秘書

学生

教師

ウェ이터

ウェートレス

私は...です

仏教

キリスト教

カトリック教

Jewish
yudaya kyo
Muslim
isuramu kyo

ユダヤ教
イスラム教

Nationality

Where are you from?

doko kara kimashita ka?

どこから来ましたか

Australia
osutoraria

オーストラリア

Belgium
berugi

ベルギ

Canada
kanada

カナダ

Denmark
denmaku

デンマーク

Germany
doutsu

ドイツ

France
furansu

フランス

Holland
oranda

オランダ

Italy
itari

イタリア

India
indo

インド

Ireland
airurando

アイルランド

Japan
ruhon

日本

New Zealand
nyūjirando

ニュージーランド

Soviet Union

soren

ノ連

Sweden

suēden

スウェーデン

Switzerland

suisu

スイス

UK

igirisu

イギリス

USA

amerika

アメリカ

Feelings

I am

watakushi wa .

私は..

tired

tsukaremashita

疲れました

happy

ureshii desu

うれしいです

sad

kanashii desu

かなしいです

sleepy

nemui desu

眠いです

scared

kowai desu

こわいです

lost

muchi ni

道に迷いました

mayoimashita

sick

byōki desu

内気です

I am.....

watakushi no.....

hungry

onaka ga sukimashita

thirsty

nodo ga

kawakimashita

私の...

おなかがすきました

のどがかわきました

Some Useful Phrases

Where are you going?

anata wa doko ni

ikimasu ka?

あなたはどこにいきますか

Do you speak English?

eigo o hanashimasu ka?

英語を話しますか

What did you say?

nani o oshaimashita ka?

何をおしやいましたか

I don't know.

wakarimasen

わかりません

No.

ie

いいえ

Yes.

hai

はい

What's the matter?

nanika mondai ga

arimasu ka?

何か問題がありますか

Where is the restroom?

otearai wa doko desu ka?

お手洗いはどこですか

What is this called?

kore wa nanto iimasu ka?

これは何といいますか



Accommodation

Travelers have a choice between western-style hotels or Japanese inns as well as a wide range of prices. Count on finding English-speaking staff only at the larger and more expensive hotels and inns.

For a taste of travel Japanese style try a Japanese *ryokan* or a *minshuku*. The *ryokan* is the traditional, up-market inn that westerners generally picture when they think of a Japanese house or inn. These are the inns with sliding doors, kimono-clad ladies, and reed mat (*tatami*) floors. The maid lays out your bed (*futon*) and brings meals to your room, delightful touches but ones for which you will pay dearly. Budget travellers go for the less elaborate family-operated *minshukus*. The service isn't as solicitous, and the food isn't as good as in a *ryokan* but the room rates are quite comfortable. Guests do not have a choice over the menu in either type of inn - accept what is served. A *minshuku* usually features a common dining area and a set mealtime. Since foreigners are sometimes turned away from both types of Japanese inns, it is best to make reservations through a tourist information office.

Hotel and inn bills include a service charge. Tipping is not necessary but is acceptable if extraordinary service has been provided.

Where is a?

doko desu ka?

どこですか

hotel

hoteru

ホテル

inn

ryokan

旅館

youth hostel

yūsu hosuteru

ユースホステル

Watch out for hotels sporting garish architecture and pink or purple neon signs - these are love hotels with hourly rates. If you arrive after 10 pm you can often get a low rate on a bizarrely decorated room for the night.

Checking In

Do you have ... ?

ga arimasu ka?

...がありますか

a room

heya

部屋

a single room

shinguru rūmu

シングル ルーム

a double room

daburu rūmu

ダブル ルーム

a room with a bath

basu tsuki no heya

バス付きの部屋

How much per night?

ippaku wa ikura desu ka?

一泊はいくらですか

I don't have a reservation.

yoyaku shite imasen

予約していません

Don't you have anything cheaper?

*motto yasui no wa**arimasen ka?*

もっと安いのは

ありませんか

That's too expensive.

sore wa taka sugiru desu ga

それは高すぎるですが

Could I see the room?

*heya o misete**kudasaimasu ka?*

部屋をみせて

トさいますか

It's too small

chiisa sugimasu

小さすぎます

It's too noisy

urusa sugimasu

うるさすぎます

This is fine

kore wa ii desu

これはいいです

I'll be staying

taizai shimasu

...滞在します

one night

hutoban

晩

two nights

futaban

二晩

three nights

mikka

三日

a few nights

ni san nichi

三

one week

isshūkan

週間

I'm not sure how long

I'm staying.

nan nichi tomaruka

何日とまるかまだ

mada uakarimasen

わかりません

Where is the?

..... wa doko desu ka?

...はどこですか

lift (elevator)

erebētā

エレベーター

bathroom

otearai

fan

senpūki

hotel

hoteru

inn

ryokan

lock

jomae

toilet

benjo

お手洗い

せんぷうき

ホテル

旅館

錠前

便所

I would like... ..

... ga hoshu no desu ga

...が欲しいのですが

blanket

mōfu

毛布

towel

taoru

タオル

some ice

kōri

氷

May I have . . . ?

o itadakemasu ka?

...をいただけますか

tea

ocha

お茶

a menu

menyū

メニュー

breakfast

chōshoku

朝食

lunch

chūshoku

昼食

supper (dinner)

yūshoku

夕食

the bill

o-kanjō o o-negai

お勘定をお願いします

shimasu

Some Useful Words

air-conditioning

reibō

冷房

ashtray

haizara

灰皿

chair

isu

椅子

clean

kirei

きれい

curtain

katen

カーテン

dirty

kitanai

汚い

door

to

戸

expensive

takai

高い

heating

danbō

暖房

hot water

oyu

お湯

key

kagi

鍵

laundry

sentaku

洗濯

light bulb	電球
<i>denkyū</i>	
mirror	鏡
<i>kagami</i>	
newspaper	新聞
<i>shinbun</i>	
noisy	やかましい
<i>yakamashi</i>	
pillow	枕
<i>makura</i>	
sleep (v)	眠る
<i>neru</i>	
stay (v)	滞在する
<i>taizai suru</i>	
soap	せっけん
<i>sekken</i>	
towel	タオル
<i>taoru</i>	

Checking Out

I'm checking out.	…チェックアウトします
<i>tachumasu</i>	
now	今
<i>ima</i>	
midday	昼
<i>hira</i>	
tomorrow	明日
<i>ashita</i>	
tomorrow morning	明日の朝
<i>asu no asa</i>	

Can I leave my stuff with
you until.....?

*made watashi no
nimotsu o azukatte
itedakemasu ka?*
this afternoon
gogo
this evening
konban

…まで私の荷物を
あずかっていますか

午後

今晚

Could I have the bill?

o kanyō o o-negai shimasu?
Would you get me a taxi?
*takushi o yonde
kudasaimasu ka?*

お勘定をお願いします

タクシーを呼んで下さい

At the Laundry

blouse	ブラウス
<i>burauzu</i>	
button	ボタン
<i>botan</i>	
cleaned	クリーニングした
<i>kuriningu shita</i>	
handkerchief	ハンカチーフ
<i>hankachifu</i>	
ironed	アイロンした
<i>airon shita</i>	
pants	ズボン
<i>zubon</i>	
press (v)	プレスする
<i>puresu suru</i>	

pullover	プルオーバー
shirt	ワイシャツ
skirt	スカート
socks	くつ下
underwear	ショーツ
zipper	チャック

Some Useful Phrases

Is there a laundry nearby?	洗濯屋は近くに ありますか
I need it today	今日いります
I need it tomorrow.	明日要ります
Can you mend this?	これをつくらっていただけませんか
Please iron this.	アイロンをかけて下さい



Getting Around

Japan has one of the best public transportation systems in the world. You should have no need of a private car since taxis, buses, subways, and trains can quickly get you to any corner of the country. Getting around is easy if you can pronounce the name of your destination.

Taxis can be hailed anywhere, but are most easily found in front of hotels or at taxi stands. Watch out for the automatic doors on taxis. Stand back and let the driver open and close the door.

Finding a taxi out of one of the entertainment districts late at night will be difficult. Everyone is trying to find a taxi, and it may be necessary to hold up two or three fingers to indicate that you are willing to pay double or triple the metered fare. Otherwise, don't try to bargain for taxis (except for occasional long distance taxi trips). Taxis are always metered.

Use the subways in Tokyo and Osaka, they're quicker and cheaper than the taxis. Obtain a subway route map with the stations written in both English and Japanese. If you get lost just look for a Japanese person who doesn't seem to be in a hurry (hard to find) and point to your destination on the map. Japanese are invariably very helpful to disoriented foreigners. Subway lines are colour coded and most stations have a route map with romanised names posted near the ticket vendors.

Subway tickets and short-distance train tickets are sold from ticket machines at the stations. Long-distance train tickets must be purchased at ticket windows. Unlike the

subways train stations usually do not have a romanised version of the train system posted. Simply write down your destination and show it to the ticket seller. If you take one of the super speedy bullet trains (*shinkansen*) be aware that there are two types: the *kodama* which makes frequent stops, and the *hikari* which zips past the lesser stations.

From town to town you can also go by bus. Buses are air-conditioned and comfortable, although leg-room may be a problem for tall passengers.

Where is the ?

..... *wa doko desu ka?* ..はどこですか

train station

eki

駅

bus stop

basu teiryujo

バス停留所

airport

kukō

空港

ticket office

kippu uriba

切符売り場

subway station

chikatetsu no eki

地下鉄の駅

When is the bus?

. *basu wa itsu desu ka?* ...バスはいつですか

first

shihatsu

始発

next

tsugi no

次の

last

saishu

最終

Trains

If you are travelling long distance by train there is quite a wide range of choices, depending on how fast and how comfortable you would like your trip to be. You will see the following kinds of train.

bullet train

shinkansen

新幹線

limited express

tokyū

特急

ordinary express

kyūkō

急行

local trains

futsū

普通

Local train fares represent a base to which additional amounts are added in keeping with the speed and comfort of the train you are travelling on

first class

gurinsha

グリーン車

reserved

shuteiseki

指定席

unreserved

jiyūseki

自由席



Buying Tickets

Where can I buy a ticket
to?

*yuki no kippu wa
doko de kaemasu ka?*

... 行きの切符はどこで
買えますか

How much is the fare to?

. made ikura desu ka?

... までいくらですか

Single.

katamichi

片道

Return.

ofuku

往復

Can I buy a ticket on the day?

tōjitsuken wa arimasu ka?

当日券は、ありますか

On the Train

Does this train go to?

*kono densha wa e
ikimasu ka?*

この電車は... へ行きますか

Where do I change for?

*e wa doko de
norikaemasu ka?*

... へはどこで乗り
かえますか

Is the next station?

*tsugi no eki wa
desu ka?*

次の駅は... ですか

Where are we now?

ima doko desu ka?

今どこですか

In the Subway

Do you have an English
subway map?

*eigo no chukatetsu no
chuzu ga arimasu ka?*

英語の地下鉄の地図が
ありますか

Which line do I take for ?

*ni iku ni wa nani
sen ni nottara ii desu ka?*

... に行くには何線に
乗ったらいいですか

Which exit do I need

for?

*. . . e iku ni wa dono
deguchi wa ii desu ka?*

... へ行くにはどの出口は
いいですか

Where is the exit?

*. . . guchi wa doko
desu ka?*

口はどこですか

east

東

higashi

west

西

nishi

north

北

kita

south

南

minami

On the Bus

Where can I get a bus to?

*. . . yuki no basu wa
doko de noremasu ka?*

行きのバスはどこで
乗れますか

How much is it to ?

. made ikura desu ka?

... までいくらですか

Will you tell me when we
get to ?

*. . . ga kitara oshiete
kudasaimasu ka?*

... が来たら教えて下さい

Instructions

Let's go!

ikimasho!

Please hurry.

hayaku itte kudasai

Please slow down

*motto yukkuri ni**itte kudasai*

Please stop.

tomatte kudasai

Please wait here

koko de matte kudasai

Please go to

ni itte kudasai

airport

kūkō

this address

kono jūsho

the bank

ginkō

the embassy

taishikan

city hall

shiyakusho

the market

ichiba

stadium

kyōgijō

university

daigaku

いきましょう

速く行って下さい

もっとゆっくり行って
下さい

止って下さい

ここで待って下さい

...に言って下さい

へ港

この住所

銀行

へ、使館

市役所

市場

競技場

、大学

Directions

go straight ahead

massugu ni itte kudasai

north

kita

south

minami

east

higashi

west

nishi

Please turn

..... ni magatte kudasai

left

hidari

right

*migi***Locations**

above

ue ni

behind

ushiro ni

below

shita ni

here

koko

next to

tonari ni

opposite

mukai ni

まっすぐに行って下さい

北

南

東

西

...に曲って下さい

左

右

上に

後ろ

下に

ここ

となりに

むかひに

over there
asoko
there
soko

あそこ

そこ

Some Useful Words

alley
yokochō
bicycle
jitensha
car
jidōsha
conductor
shashō (san)

松町

自転車

自動車

車掌さん

far
tōi

遠い

garage
shūrikōjō

修理場

mechanic
shūrikō

修理工

map
chizu

地図

near
chikai

近い

petrol
gasu

ガス

street
michi

道

subway
chikatetsu

地下鉄

taxi
takushi

タクシー

timetable
jikkohyō
train
densha

時刻表

電車

Some Useful Phrases

Can we go on foot?

aruite iku koto ga
dekimasu ka?

歩いていく事が
できますか

It's too far.

tō sugimasu

遠すぎます

I want to go to the hotel

hoteru ni ikitai desu

ホテルにいきたいです

I want to get off at

de oritai no desu

...で降りたいのです

I want a ticket to

... please.

yuki made no

kippu o ichimai kudasai

行きまでの切符を一枚
下さい

Does this bus go to

..... ni tomarimasu ka?

...に止まりますか

Where is the rest room?

otearai wa doko desu ka?

お手洗いはどこですか



Around Town

Addresses

Japan has traditionally used a district system of addresses. The hierarchy of districts starts with the largest, the ward (*ku*), and gets progressively smaller with *chō* (or *machi*) and *bancho*. Buildings within the districts are often numbered according to the order in which they were built, and not necessarily in sequential order along a street. The best way to locate an address is to have someone tell you which subway station is closest to your destination and then call for directions from that station. With the use of a map, some landmarks, and possibly a police box (*kōban*), you can find your destination. As an alternative, let a taxi driver worry about finding the place.

Where is the?

<i>wa doko desu ka?</i>	...はどこですか
art gallery	
<i>garō</i>	画廊
bank	
<i>ginkō</i>	銀行
book store	
<i>honya</i>	本屋
embassy	
<i>taishukan</i>	大使館
hotel	
<i>hoteru</i>	ホテル
inn	
<i>ryokan</i>	旅館

museum	
<i>hakubutsukan</i>	博物館
post office	
<i>yūbin kyoku</i>	郵便局
restaurant	
<i>shokudō</i>	食堂
temple	
<i>tera</i>	寺

At the Post Office

Many tourist hotels either offer a packing service or have a shop in their building which will pack your souvenirs for posting. Most of them also sell stamps and mail letters for you.

The symbol for post offices and postal services is a white and red T with a bar across the top. The mailboxes (*posuto*) are red, and in Tokyo the slot on the left-side is for mail destined for outside the city. Blue mailboxes are for special delivery mail.

I want

..... <i>o kudasai</i>	...を下さい
a stamp	
<i>kitte</i>	切手
an air letter	
<i>kōkū yūbin</i>	航空郵便
a postcard	
<i>hagaki</i>	葉書

I want to send it by

... <i>de okuritai no desu</i>	...で送りたいのです
airmail	
<i>kōkūbin</i>	航空便

domestic mail <i>kokunai yūbin</i>	国内郵便
express delivery <i>sokutatsu</i>	速達
registered mail <i>kakitome</i>	留
seamail <i>funabin</i>	船便

Some Useful Words

cable <i>denpō</i>	電報
express delivery <i>sokutatsu</i>	速達
letter <i>tegami</i>	手紙
number <i>bangō</i>	番号
letter box <i>yūbin bako</i>	郵便箱
parcel <i>kozutsumi</i>	小包
telephone <i>denwa</i>	電話

Some Useful Phrases

Where is the nearest post office? <i>moyori no yūbinkyoku wa doko desu ka?</i>	最寄の郵便局はどこですか
I want to send a cable. <i>denpō o uchitai no desu</i>	電報を打ちたいのです

I want to buy stamps, please. <i>kitte o kaitai no desu</i>	切手を買いたいのです
How much postage to? <i>.... muke no tegami wa ikura desu ka?</i>	...向の手紙はいくらですか
What window should I go to for stamps? <i>kitte wa dochira no mado de urimasu ka?</i>	切手はどちらの窓口で売りますか
I'd like to send this parcel. <i>kono kozutsumi o okuritai no desu ga</i>	この小包を送りたいのですが
How many days will it take by seamail? <i>funabin de nannichi gurai kakarimasu ka?</i>	船便で何日ぐらいかかりますか

At the Bank

The Japanese unit of currency is the yen, which is abbreviated as ¥. You'll usually get a better exchange rate at banks or credit card agencies than at hotels. Yen are easily converted outside Japan.

I want to change <i>... o kaetai desu</i>	...を替えたいです
travellers' cheques <i>toraberāzu chekku</i>	トラベラーズチェック
cash <i>genkin</i>	現金

Some Useful Words

coins	小銭
<i>kozen</i>	
bank notes	銀行手形
<i>ginkō tegata</i>	
bank draft	銀行爲替手形
<i>ginkō kawase tegata</i>	
branch	支店
<i>shibu</i>	
commission	手数料
<i>tesuryō</i>	
credit card	クレジットカード
<i>kurejitto kādo</i>	
signature	署名
<i>shomei</i>	
identification card	身分証明書
<i>mibun shōmeisho</i>	
bank	銀行
<i>ginkō</i>	
money	お金
<i>o-kane</i>	
letter of credit	信用状
<i>shin-yōjō</i>	

If you wish to avoid the risk of currency exchange rate fluctuations you can obtain yen denominated travelers' cheques at many banks before your departure for Japan.

Some Useful Phrases

Where is the nearest bank?

<i>moyori no ginkō wa doko desu ka?</i>	最寄りの銀行はどこですか
---	--------------

Where can I cash a travelers' cheque?

doko de toraberazu chekku o genkin ni kaeru koto ga dekimasu ka?

What is the exchange rate?

kōkan rēto wa ikura desu ka?

What time does it open?

nanji ni akimasu ka?

I want to cash a cheque

ginkō kogitte o genkin ni kaetai desu

どこでトラベラーズ
チェックを現金に替
えられますか

交換レートはいくら
ですか

何時に開きますか

銀行小切手を現金に
替たいです

Things to See & Do

I'd like to see

.. ga mitain desu

Buddhist temple

tera

Imperial Palace

kōkyō

Japanese garden

nihon teien

kabuki

kabuki

noh

nō

pagoda

tō

sumo wrestling

sumo

..を見たいんです

寺

皇居

日本庭園

歌舞伎

能

塔

相撲

tea ceremony

cha no yu

teahouse

chashitsu

Zen temple

zendera

茶の湯

茶室

禪寺

Tickets

Where can I buy tickets?

*kippu wa doko de**kaemasu ka?*

切符はどこで買えますか

How much are the tickets?

kippu wa ikura desu ka?

切符はいくらですか

I'd like to reserve seats

for

*... seki yoyaku**shitai desu*

...席を予約したいです

this evening's show

konban no shō

今晚のショー

matinée

hiru no shō

昼のショー

tomorrow evening's show

ashita no ban no shō

明日の晩のショー

Nightlife

If you are on a low budget, be very wary of entering nice 'cosy' bars, or expensive looking nightclubs. Prices can be astronomical. It is always a good idea to establish prices before entering and being landed with a \$50 glass of beer. As a general rule of thumb, it is safer to avoid bars with *hosutesu* (hostesses).

Does this nightclub have
a cover charge?

*kono naito karabu wa**kāba chuaji ga arimasu ka?*

このナイトクラブはカーバ

チャージがありますか

How much is it for one person?

*hitori atari ikura**kakarimasu ka?*

一人あたりいくら

かかりますか

Does it have hostesses?

hosutesu ga imasu ka?

ホステスがいいますか

How much is a bottle of beer?

bīru ippon ikura deshōka?

ビール一本いくらでしょうか

Some Useful Words

bar

bā

バー

cabaret

kabarei

キャバレイ

cigarettes

tabako

タバコ

cinema

eigakan

映画館

disco

deisko

ディスコ

jazz

jazu

ジャズ

Emergencies

Japan is one of the safest places in the world. You are generally safe walking alone at night even on darkened streets. Foreigners are rarely victims of crime. Do, however, beware of Japanese Yakuza types (organised crime) in some bars, especially in the Kabukicho area of Tokyo's Shinjuku ward.

Help me!	
<i>tasukete!</i>	たすけて
Watch out!	
<i>ki o tsukete!</i>	気をつけて
Thief!	
<i>dorobō!</i>	泥棒
Call the police!	
<i>keisatsu o yonde kudasai!</i>	警察を呼んで下さい
Call a doctor!	
<i>isha o yonde kudasai!</i>	医者を呼んで下さい



In the Country

Is it far to the ?	
<i>.. wa tōi desu ka?</i>	...は遠いですか
Can we walk to the . . . ?	
<i>..... made aruite ikemasu ka?</i>	...まで歩いて行けますか
beach	
<i>hama</i>	浜
cave	
<i>dōkutsu</i>	洞窟
harbour	
<i>minato</i>	港
hot springs	
<i>onsen</i>	温泉
island	
<i>shima</i>	島
lake	
<i>mizumi</i>	湖
mountain	
<i>yama</i>	山
river	
<i>kawa</i>	川
road	
<i>ichi</i>	道
sea	
<i>umi</i>	海
teahouse	
<i>chashitsu</i>	茶室

temple	
<i>otera</i>	お寺
valley	
<i>tani</i>	谷
waterfall	
<i>taki</i>	滝

Is there a ... in this area?

kono hen ni wa ga arimasu ka? この辺には ... がありますか

guest house	
<i>ryokan</i>	旅館
hotel	
<i>hoteru</i>	ホテル
park	
<i>kôen</i>	公園
restaurant	
<i>resutoran</i>	レストラン
youth hostel	
<i>yûsu hosuteru</i>	ユースホステル
village	
<i>mura</i>	村

Animals

animal	
<i>dôbutsu</i>	動物
bird	
<i>tori</i>	鳥
cat	
<i>neko</i>	猫
chicken	
<i>niwatori</i>	にわとり



cow	
<i>ushu</i>	牛
crab	
<i>kani</i>	かに
dog	
<i>inu</i>	犬
fish	
<i>sakana</i>	魚
frog	
<i>kaeru</i>	蛙
goat	
<i>yagi</i>	やぎ
horse	
<i>uma</i>	馬
rabbit	
<i>usagi</i>	うさぎ
rat	
<i>nezumi</i>	ねずみ

Weather

cloud	
<i>kumo</i>	雲
fog	
<i>kiri</i>	霧
rain	
<i>ame</i>	雨
sun	
<i>taiyô</i>	太陽
snow	
<i>yuki</i>	雪
wind	
<i>kaze</i>	風

Some Useful Phrases

How is the weather?

tenki wa dō desu ka?

天気はどうですか

It's very cold today.

kyō wa samui desu

今日は寒いです

It's a very hot day!

totemo atsuu deshō!

とても暑いでしょう

Are those cherry blossoms?

are wa sakura desu ka?

あれは桜ですか

When do the cherry

blossoms bloom?

*sakura wa itsu**sakimasu ka?*

桜はいつ咲きますか

Can I see Mt Fuji from here?

*koko kara fuji san mieru**deshoka?*ここから富士山が見える
でしょうか

Is it possible to climb

Mt Fuji now?

*ima fuji san ni**noboremasu ka?*

今富士山に登れますか

Place Names

Islands

hokkaidō 北海道*honshū* 本州*shikoku* 四国*kyūshū* 九州*ryūkyū* 琉球諸島

Main Cities

tōkyō 東京*ōsaka* 大阪*kyōto* 京都*kōbe* 神戸*nagoya* 名古屋*yokohama* 横浜*hiroshima* 広島*fukuoka* 福岡*nagasaki* 長崎*tokushima* 徳島*sendai* 仙台*aomori* 青森*hakodate* 函館*sapporo* 札幌

Cities around Tokyo

chiba 千葉*maebashi* 前橋*mito* 水戸*urawa* 浦和*atsunomiya* 宇都宮*yokohama* 横浜

Cities around Osaka

kōbe 神戸*kyōto* 京都*nara* 奈良*otsu* 大津*tsu* 津*wakayama* 和歌山

Cities around Tokushima

kōchi 高知*matsuyama* 松山*takamatsu* 高松

Cities around Fukuoka

kagoshima 鹿児島

miyazaki 宮崎

oita 大分

Cities around Nagoya

fukui 福井

kanazawa 金沢

nagano 長野

toyama 富山

Cities around Hiroshima

matsue 松江

tottori 鳥取

Cities around Sendai and Aomori

akita 秋田

morioka 森岡

yamagata 山形

kumamoto 熊本

nagasaki 長崎

saga 佐賀

gifu 岐阜

kofu 甲府

shizuoka 静岡

okayama 岡山

yamaguchi 山口

fukushima 福島

niigata 新潟



Food

Japan's cities have restaurants specialising in everything from poisonous fish to American pizza. Still, Japanese and Chinese rice and noodle dishes are the norm. Many 'Japanised' western foods such as the ubiquitous 'mixed sandwich' (sorry, no substitutions) are available.

Many inexpensive traditional restaurants display a short, slitted curtain, or *noren*, over the doorway to announce to passers-by that they are open and ready to receive customers. If the *noren* is tucked inside or rolled-up, the restaurant is closed.

A taste of Japan requires a visit to a *soba-ya*, or noodle shop. *Sararimen* (businessmen) and *OL's* (office ladies) rush into these eateries at lunch time and slurp hot or cold noodles and soup before rushing back to work. The most popular seems to be the square brownish buckwheat noodles that are called *soba* (*o-soba* by women). Round yellow Chinese noodles are also popular. It's acceptable to slurp noodles.

Beware of restaurants that look like private homes. These *ryoriya* can be phenomenally expensive, but can provide you with a look at traditional high class dining. Diners don't have a choice of foods - you must accept whatever the specialty of the day is.

Using *kudasai* is a polite way to ask for things, and can be translated as 'please give me'. 'Please' and 'thank you' are always in order in Japan. If you are the guest at a meal, say *itadakimasu* (I will partake) before starting to eat.

Even without a guidebook you can enjoy the many

inexpensive restaurants as they generally have realistic-looking models of the dishes available in the front window. Each model displays the name of the dish and its price. All you have to do is point at the dish you want.

Mealtimes

breakfast	
<i>chōshoku</i>	朝食
lunch	
<i>chūshoku</i>	昼食
dinner	
<i>yūshoku</i>	夕食

Drinks

Try the many *kissaten* (coffee shops) if you like to sip coffee or soda while reading or talking. Although drinks aren't cheap, you can sit for as long as you want without being expected to order more.

When out drinking, wait until everyone's glass is full before starting to drink. The word *kampai* (cheers!) is heard often and literally means 'dry cup'. It is bad form to fill your own glass.

water	
<i>nomi mizu</i>	のみ水
milk	
<i>miruku</i>	ミルク
barley tea	
<i>mugicha</i>	麦茶
green tea	
<i>ryokucha</i>	緑茶

black tea		紅茶
<i>kōcha</i>		
coffee		コーヒー
<i>kōhī</i>		
iced coffee		アイスコーヒー
<i>aisu kōhī</i>		
iced tea		アイスティ
<i>aisu tī</i>		
cola		コラ
<i>kōra</i>		
juice		ジュース
<i>jūsu</i>		
fruit juice		フルーツジュース
<i>furūtsu jūsu</i>		
mineral water		ミネラルウォーター
<i>mineraru uōtā</i>		
beer		ビール
<i>bīru</i>		
draft beer		生ビール
<i>nama bīru</i>		
rice wine		酒
<i>sake</i>		
whisky		ウイスキー
<i>uisukī</i>		
wine		ぶどう酒
<i>budōshu</i>		

Fruit

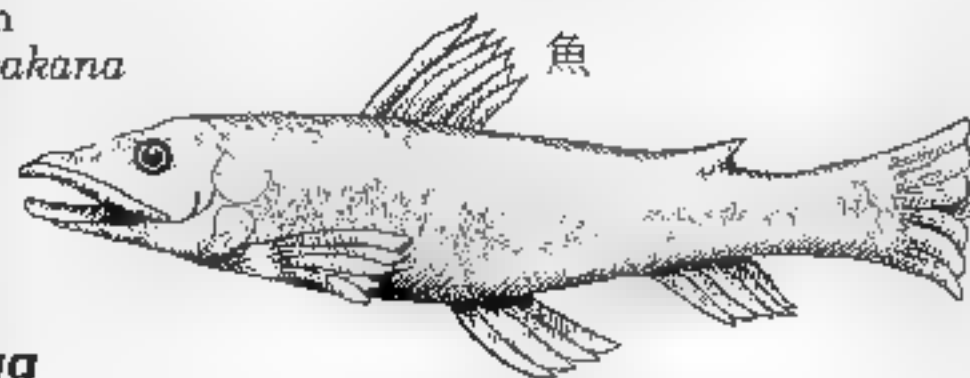
I'd like a/some . . . please.	..を下さい
<i>o kudasa.</i>	
fruit	果物
<i>kudamono</i>	

apple	りんご
<i>ringo</i>	
cherry	桜んぼ
<i>sakuranbo</i>	
chestnuts	くり
<i>kuri</i>	
gooseberries	すぐり
<i>suguri</i>	
grapes	葡萄
<i>budo</i>	
lemon	レモン
<i>remon</i>	
orange	オレンジ
<i>orenj</i>	
peach	もも
<i>momo</i>	
persimmon	かき
<i>kaki</i>	
pear	なし
<i>nashi</i>	
strawberries	苺
<i>ichigo</i>	
dried fruit	ほした果物
<i>hoshita kudamono</i>	

Seafood

clam	はまぐり
<i>hamaguri</i>	
crab	かに
<i>karu</i>	
eel	うなぎ
<i>unagi</i>	

lobster	伊勢エビ
<i>ise-ebi</i>	
oyster	かき
<i>kaki</i>	
prawn	車エビ
<i>kurumaebi</i>	
salmon	さけ
<i>sake</i>	
seafood	海介類
<i>gyokairui</i>	
shrimp	小エビ
<i>ko-ebi</i>	
fish	魚
<i>sakana</i>	

**Egg**

egg	たまご
<i>tamago</i>	
fried egg	たまごフライ
<i>tamago furai</i>	
hard-boiled egg	固ゆでたまご
<i>katayude tamago</i>	
poached egg	おとしたまご
<i>otoshi tamago</i>	
scrambled egg	かきたまご
<i>kaki tamago</i>	
soft-boiled egg	半じゅくたまご
<i>hanjuku tamago</i>	

Meat

beef
gyūniku
 chicken
tori
 ham
hamu
 hamburger
hanbāgā
 liver
karizō
 meat
niku
 mutton
maton
 pork
butaniku
 roast beef
rōsuto bifu
 sausage
sōsēji
 steak
sutēki
 stew
shichū niku

Vegetables

beans
mame
 bean sprouts
moyashu

牛肉
 とり
 ハム
 ハンバーガー
 肝臓
 肉
 マトン
 豚肉
 ローストビーフ
 ソ セ ジ
 ステーキ
 シチュー肉

 まめ
 もやし

cabbage
kyabetsu
 carrot
ninjin
 corn
tōmorokoshi
 cucumber
kyūri
 garlic
ninniku
 green onion
asatsuki
 lettuce
retasū
 mushroom
masshurāmu
 onion
tamanegi
 peanuts
pinattsu
 peas
mame
 potato
jagaimo
 radishes
radisshu
 red pepper
momujiroshi
 salad
sarada
 spinach
hōrensō

 キャベツ
 にんじん
 ともろこし
 きゅうり
 にんにく
 あさつき
 レタス
 マッシュルーム
 玉ねぎ
 ピーナツ
 まめ
 じゃがいも
 アディシュ
 もみじろし
 サラダ
 はうれん草

tomato
tomato トマト

white radish
daikon 大根

Soups

soup
sūpu スープ

chicken soup
chikin sūpu チキンスープ

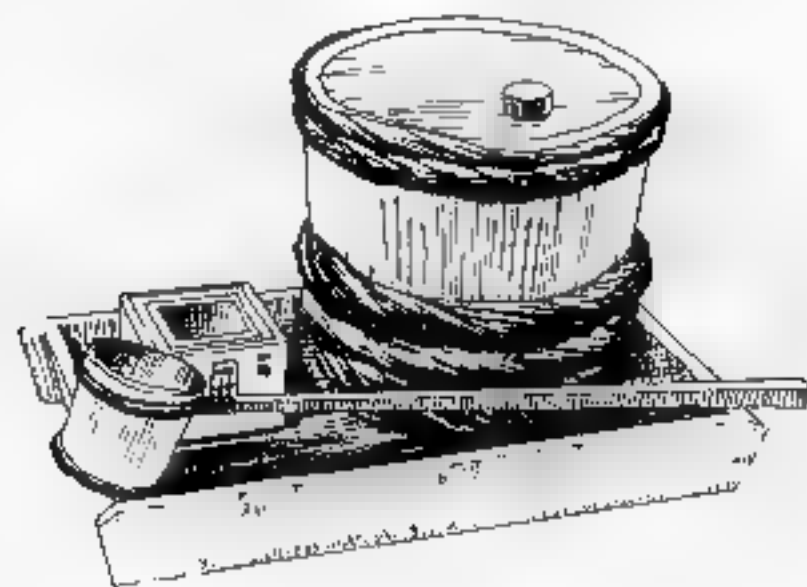
pea soup
mame sūpu まめスープ

vegetable soup
yasai sūpu 野菜スープ

Seasonings

black pepper
koshō 胡椒

garlic
ninniku にんにく



ketchup
kechappu ケチャップ

mustard
karashi からし

salt
shio 塩

soy sauce
shōyu しょう油

sugar
satō 砂糖

vinegar
su 酢

Grains

bread
pan パン

noodles
soba (thin) そば

udon (thick) うどん

rolls
rōru pan ロールパン

rice
gohan ごはん

Miscellaneous Food

bean curd
tōfu 豆腐

butter
bata バター

cake
kēki ケーキ

dumplings

gyoza

honey

hachimitsu

ice cream

aisu kurīmu

toast

*tōsuto***Some Useful Words**

baked

tenpi de yaita

boiled

yudetanuta

braised

torobi de nita

broiled

kogashita

chopped

kitta

fried

abura de ageta

rare

nama yaki

medium

futsū

well-done

yoku yaku

raw

nama

ripe

juku shita

餃子

蜂蜜

アイスクリーム

トースト

天火で焼いた

ゆでた煮た

とろ火で煮た

こがした

切った

油で揚げた

生焼き

普通

良く焼く

生

熟した

delicious

oishii

sweet

amai

sour

suppai

bitter

nigai

cold

tsumetai

hot (taste)

karai

hot (temperature)

atsui

fresh

shinsen

empty

kara

full

ippai

vegetarian meal

saishoku ryōri

おいしい

あまい

すっぱい

にがい

冷い

辛い

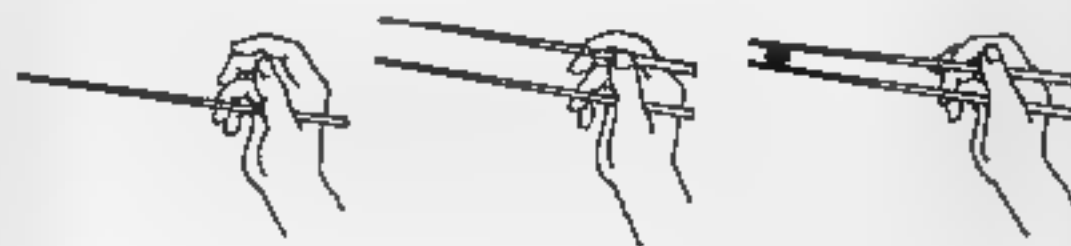
暑い

新鮮

空

一杯

菜食料理



Holding Chopsticks

Japanese Food

There are a great number of different kinds of eating places in Japan. Among the kinds you are most likely to encounter are *kissaten* (coffee shops), where cakes and other snacks are often available; *resutoran* (restaurants), which specialise either in western, Japanese, or Japanese interpretations of western food, *ryōriya*, which serve only Japanese food, and, on the streets, you will come across *yatai* (street stalls on wheels) selling hot sweet potatoes, noodles and other reasonably priced light meals.

Popular Dishes

sushi & sashimi すしとさしみ

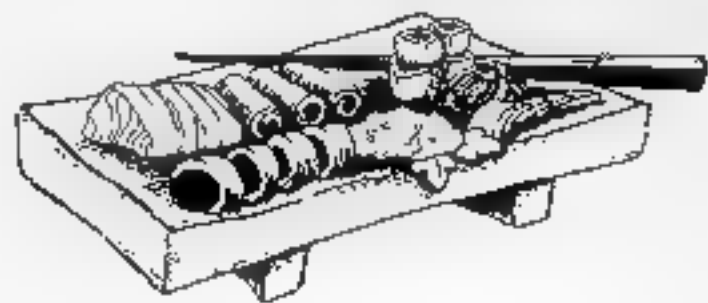
Perhaps the most famous of Japanese dishes, *sushi* and *sashimi* are often confused by westerners. *Sushi* is lightly vinegared rice topped with a little *wasabi* (horse radish) raw seafood or egg. *Sashimi*, on the other hand, is thinly sliced raw fish served with, among other things, soya sauce, *wasabi*, and thinly sliced ginger.

tempura てんぷら

Originally introduced by the Portuguese, seafood and vegetables are dipped in an egg and flour batter and deep-fried.

sukiyaki すき焼き

Thin slices of beef are dipped into a sweetened soy sauce broth and simmered together with bean curd, vegetables and dried mushrooms on the table in front of the diner.



shabu shabu しゃぶしゃぶ

The diner places thin slices of beef and vegetables into a thin, simmering broth.

rāmen ラーメン

Chinese noodles adapted to the Japanese palate, *rāmen* is always a good, low budget meal for the traveller.

yakitori 焼き鳥

Barbecued chicken on skewers, this snack, and others like it, are often available as a popular accompaniment to drinks in bars.

teishoku 定食

This is not a dish, rather a common practice whereby restaurants offer dishes from their menu at a special lunch time price.

globe fish 河豚

Also known as *fugu*, restaurants serve this poisonous fish to the many aficionados in Japan who get a thrill out of taking small risks. Although prepared by certified cooks, people do occasionally die from improperly prepared *fugu*.

Noodle Dishes

noodles

o-udon

うどん

tea-flavoured buckwheat
noodles

cha soba

茶そば

thick noodles in fish broth
chikara udon

ちからうどん

thin noodles in pork broth
gomoku soba

ごもくそば

thick noodles in curry soup

karē nanban

miso flavoured thin noodles

miso ramen

カレーなんばん

みそラーメン

Rice Dishes

rice

gohan

bowl of rice

gohan ichizen

fried rice with pork

or shrimp

chā han

beef and gravy over rice

hayashi raisu

curried rice

karē raisu

omelette rice

omuraisu

rice steamed in fish bouillon

kamameshi

ごはん

ごはんーぜん

チャーハン

林ライス

カレーライス

オムライス

かまめし



Some Useful Phrases

I'd like a table for two

futari yō no tēburu o

onegaishimasu

二人用のテーブルを
お願いします

Do you have an English
menu?

engo no mēnū wa

arimasu ka?

英語のメニューは
ありますか

I'm vegetarian.

watashi wa saishoku

shugisha desu

私は菜食主義者です

Do you have any
vegetarian meals?

saishoku shugi sha yō

no riyōri wa arimasu ka?

菜食主義者用の料理は
ありますか

Western-style food.

yōfū no riyōri

洋風の料理

Japanese-style food.

wafū no riyōri

和風の料理

What do you recommend?

o-susume ryōri wa nan

desu ka?

お勧め料理は何ですか

What's the price of the
fixed menu?

teishoku wa ikura desu ka?

定食はいくらですか

The food is cold.

ryōri wa samete imasu

料理はさめています

I've had enough, thank you.

kore de mo kekko desu

これでも結構です

Please bring the bill.

o kanzō o o-nagai shimasu

お勘定をお願いします

Is service included?

*sābisuryō wa fukumarete
imasu ka?*

サービス料は含まれて
いますか

Please reserve a table.

*tēburu o yoyaku shite
kudasai*

テーブルを予約して下さい

What's the name of this restaurant?

*kono shokudō no namae
wa nan desu ka?*

この食堂の名前は何ですか

Where is your rest room?

toire wa doko desu ka?

トイレはどこですか

Do you have?

o motte imasu ka?

...をもっていますか

(Please) bring

..... o kudasai

...を下さい

the menu

menyū

メニュー

a plate

sara

皿

a glass

gurasu

グラス

a bottle

ippon

本

a knife

naifu

ナイフ

a fork

fōku

フォーク

a spoon

supūn

スプーン

a cup

koppu

コップ

the bill

o kanjō

お勘定

For a complete handbook on the many types of Japanese restaurants and foods pick up a copy of Kimiko Nagasawa & Camy Condon's *Eating Cheap in Japan* (Shufunotomo Co., Ltd 1984).



Shopping

The Akihabara area of Tokyo is renowned for its discount electronics, but many will find the discount prices here comparable to prices back home. Don't forget that electric and video standards vary from country to country - tell the salesclerk which country you intend to use the product in.

Bargain hunters should check out the area across the street from Ueno train and subway station in Tokyo. The small lanes are filled with discount shoes, clothing, and household items.

When you enter a shop, the owner, clerk, or electronic door will say *irashaimase* which means 'welcome'. If you want to just look around but an eager salesclerk is hovering over you, say *kekko desu* (that's all right) to take the pressure off.

Bargaining

With the exception of some shops in Akihabara, and some discount markets, such as the one in Ueno, prices are generally fixed; any attempt to haggle is more likely to produce embarrassment than a bargain.

How much is this?

kore wa ikura desu ka?

これはいくらですか

It's too expensive.

taka sugimasu

高すぎます

I'll take this.

kore o itadakimasu

これをいただきます

How much is it altogether?

zenbu de ikura desu ka?

全部でいくらですか

I don't want to spend more than yen.

..... *yen yō wa*

tsukaitaku nain desu ga

円以上は使いたくないんですか

Will you deliver it?

todokemasu ka?

届けますか

I like this one.

kore ga hoshu no desu

これが欲しいのです

I want something cheaper.

motto yasui no ga

もっと安いのが欲しいです

hoshu desu

Shopping

Where is the

... *wa doko desu ka?*

...はどこですか

barber's shop

床屋

tokoya

book shop

本屋

honya

camera shop

カメラ屋

kameraya

department store

デパート

depāto

dressmaker's shop

洋服屋

yōfukuya

electrical shop

電気店

denkiten

handicraft shop

手工芸品店

shukōgeihuten

jeweller's shop

宝石店

hōsekiten

market	
<i>ichiba</i>	市場
pharmacy	
<i>yakkyoku</i>	薬局
shoe shop	
<i>kutsuya</i>	靴屋
shop	
<i>mise</i>	店
souvenir shop	
<i>miyagemonoya</i>	みやげ物屋
supermarket	
<i>sūpamāketto</i>	スーパーマーケット
toy shop	
<i>omochaya</i>	おもちゃ屋
tailor	
<i>yōfukuya</i>	洋服屋

I want to buy

<i>..... ga hoshii desu</i>	...が欲しいです
antiques	
<i>kottōhin</i>	骨董品
battery	
<i>denchi</i>	電池
camera	
<i>kamera</i>	カメラ
cassette player	
<i>kasseto pureya</i>	カセットプレイヤー
clothes	
<i>fuku</i>	服
gems	
<i>hōseki</i>	宝石

gold	
<i>kin</i>	金
pearls	
<i>shinju</i>	真珠
razor blades	
<i>kamisori no ha</i>	かみそりの刃
shampoo	
<i>shampū</i>	シャンプー
shoes	
<i>kutsu</i>	靴
silver	
<i>gin</i>	銀
tampons	
<i>tanpon</i>	タンポン

Do you have any?

<i>... ga arimasu ka?</i>	...がありますか
cigarettes	
<i>tabako</i>	タバコ
handbag	
<i>handobaggu</i>	ハンドバッグ
hat	
<i>bōshi</i>	帽子
jade	
<i>hisui</i>	翡翠
paintings	
<i>kaiga</i>	絵画
radio	
<i>radio</i>	ラジオ
silk	
<i>kinu</i>	絹

string
himo
thread
ito
toilet paper
toiretto pēpā
tooth paste
hamigaki
umbrella
kasa

ひも
糸
トイレットペーパー
歯みがき
かさ

At the Camera Shop

I'd like some film for
this camera.

kono kamera yō no
fuirumu ga hoshii desu
colour film
kalā fuirumu
colour slide film
sulaido fuirumu
black and white film
shiro kuro fuirumu
fast
hai supīdo
When will it be ready?
itsu dekiagarimasu ka?

このカメラ用のフィルム
が欲しいです
カラーフィルム
スライドフィルム
白黒フィルム
ハイスピード
いつできあがりますか

Some Useful Words

another
betsu no
bad
warui

別の
わるい

beautiful
kirei
big
ōki
cheap
yasui
clean
kirei
dark
kurai
develop
genzō suru
dirty
kitanai
expensive
takai
good
u
heavy
omoi
a little
sukoshi
long
nagai
many, much
takusan
receipt
ryōshūsho
round
marui
shopping
kaimono

きれい
大きい
安い
きれい
暗い
現像する
きたない
高い
いい
重い
少し
長い
沢山
領収書
まるい
買物

short	
<i>mijikai</i>	短い
small	
<i>chusai</i>	小さい
square	
<i>shikakui</i>	四角い
useful	
<i>benri</i>	便利

Stationery

dictionary	
<i>jiten</i>	辞典
envelope	
<i>fūtō</i>	封筒
information	
<i>annai</i>	案内
magazine	
<i>zasshi</i>	雑誌
map	
<i>chuzu</i>	地図
newspaper	
<i>shinbun</i>	新聞
paper	
<i>kami</i>	紙
pen	
<i>pen</i>	ペン
pencil	
<i>enpitsu</i>	鉛筆
writing paper	
<i>binsen</i>	便箋

Clothes

I'd likeが欲しいです
<i>ga hoshu desu</i>	
gloves	手袋
<i>tebukuro</i>	
jacket	ジャケット
<i>jaketto</i>	
kimono	着物
<i>kimono</i>	
raincoat	レインコート
<i>reinkōto</i>	
shirt	ワイシャツ
<i>waishatsu</i>	
shorts	ショートパンツ
<i>shōto pantsu</i>	
socks	靴下
<i>kutsushita</i>	
sweater	セーター
<i>sēta</i>	
swimsuit	水着
<i>mizugi</i>	
T shirt	T シャツ
<i>tīshatsu</i>	



I'd like one like this.

kono yōna no ga hoshii desu この様なのが欲しいです

I take size

(see 'Numbers')

saizu wa desu サイズは...です

Can I try it on?

kore o tameshite ii desu ka? これを試していいですか

It fits well

totemo yoku naimasu とてもよく似合います

It's too

..... sugimasu ...すぎます

big *ōki* 大き

long *naga* 長

loose *yuru* ゆる

small *chusa* 小

short *mijika* 短

tight *kitsu* きつ

Can you alter it?

naosemasu ka? 直せますか



Colours

Do you have any ones?

no wa arimasu ka? ...のはありますか

black *kuroi* 黒い

blue *aoi* 青い

brown *chairo* 茶色

green *mudori iro* 緑色

grey *fuji iro* 灰色

pink *pinku* ピンク

purple *murasaki iro* 紫色

red *akai* 赤い

white *shiroi* 白い

yellow *ki iro* 黄色

Quantities

bottle *ippon* 一本

gram *guramu* グラム

kilogram *kiro* キロ

large	大きい
<i>oku</i>	
less	もっと少ない
<i>motto sukunai</i>	
more	もっと
<i>motto</i>	
packet	パック
<i>paku</i>	
pound	ポンド
<i>pondo</i>	
small	小さい
<i>chusai</i>	
tin	缶詰
<i>kanzume</i>	

Some Useful Phrases

I'm just looking.	見るだけです
<i>miru dake desu</i>	
Could you help me?	お願いします
<i>o negai shimasu</i>	
Do you have English books here?	英語の本がありますか
<i>eigo no hon ga arimasu ka?</i>	
How much is it?	いくらですか
<i>ikura desu ka?</i>	
Please write it down.	書いて下さい
<i>kaite kudasai</i>	
I don't like the colour.	色が気に入りません
<i>iro ga ki ni irimasen</i>	
Do you have a bigger one?	もっと大きいのはありますか
<i>motto ōku no wa arimasen ka?</i>	

Do you accept credit cards?	クレジットカードでも
<i>kurejitto kādo demo</i>	
<i>yoroshii desu ka?</i>	よろしいですか
I'll take (buy) it.	これにします
<i>kore ni shimasu</i>	
Please wrap it for me.	つつんで下さい
<i>tsutsunde kudasai?</i>	
Please send it to this address.	この住所に送って下さい
<i>kono jūsho ni okutte</i>	
<i>kudasai</i>	
May I have the receipt?	領収書をお願いします
<i>ryōshūsho o kudasai?</i>	
Is there a guarantee?	保証はついていますか
<i>hoshō wa tsuite imasu ka?</i>	



Health

Medical care in Japan is quite advanced, but most Japanese doctors do not speak fluent English. Hotel doctors, or those at large university affiliated hospitals, are most likely to speak English.

Virtually every medicine you are familiar with is available in Japan, but the brand names may be different. Chinese herbal medicines (*kanpōyaku*) and acupuncture (*hari*) are also available. Many prescribed medicines come in powdered form.

The fire department provides a free ambulance service for emergencies. Dial 119.

Where is the ... ?

... <i>wa doko desu ka?</i>	...はどこですか
hospital	
<i>byōin</i>	病院
pharmacy	
<i>yakkyoku</i>	薬局
doctor	
<i>isha</i>	医者
dentist	
<i>haisha</i>	歯医者

I have

<i>watakushi wa</i>	私は
asthma	
<i>zensoku desu</i>	喘息です

backache

senaka ga itamimasu 背中が痛みます

diarrhoea

geri shite imasu ト痢しています

indigestion

shōkafuryō o okoshimashita 消化不良を起こしました

a burn

yakedo o oimashita やけどをおいました

a cold

kaze o hikimashita 風邪をひきました

an earache

mimi ga itamimasu 耳が痛ます

a fever

netsu ga arimasu 熱があります

a headache

zutsū ga shimasu 頭痛がします

a pain here

koko ni itami ga arimasu ここに痛みがあります

a sore throat

nodo ga itamimasu のどが痛みます

stomachache

i ga itamimasu 胃が痛みます

toothache

ha ga itamimasu 歯が痛みます

Allergies

I'm allergic to

..... <i>ni arerugī desu</i>	...にアレルギーです
antibiotics	
<i>kōsei busshitsu</i>	抗生物質

penicilin
penishirin
this
kore

ペニリン
これ

At the Chemist

Do you have ... ?

... o motte imasu ka?

...を持っていますか

aspirin

アスピリン

asupirin

band-aids

絆創膏

bansōkō

a bandage

包帯

hōtai

condom

コンドム

kondōmu

contraceptives

避妊具

hiringu

disinfectant

消毒薬

shōdoku yaku

insect repellent

防虫剤

bōchūzai

medicine

薬

kusuri

sanitary napkins

生理用ナプキン

seiriyo napukin

toothbrushes

歯ブラシ

haburashi

tranquilliser

鎮静剤

chinseizai

tweezers

けぬき

kenuki

Please make this prescription.

kore o chōzai shite

kudasai

これを調剤して下さい

Parts of the Body

arm

腕

ude

body

体

karada

bone

骨

hone

breast

乳房

chibusa

chest

胸

mune

ear

耳

mimi

eye

目

me

face

顔

kao

finger

指

yubi

foot

足

ashi

head

頭

atama

heart

心臓

shinzō

leg

脚

ashi

mouth	
<i>kuchi</i>	口
neck	
<i>kubi</i>	首
nose	
<i>hana</i>	鼻
rib	
<i>rokkotsu</i>	肋骨
stomach	
<i>i</i>	胃
throat	
<i>nodo</i>	喉
tonsils	
<i>hentosen</i>	扁桃腺
tooth	
<i>ha</i>	歯

Some Useful Words

ambulance	
<i>kyūkyūsha</i>	救急車
blood	
<i>ketsueki</i>	血液
burn (v)	
<i>yakedo</i>	火傷
break	
<i>orimasu</i>	折ります
breathe	
<i>iki o suru</i>	息をする
cough (v)	
<i>seki ga demasu</i>	咳が出ます
deaf	
<i>tsunbo</i>	聾

dentist	
<i>haisha</i>	歯医者
disease	
<i>byōki</i>	病気
doctor	
<i>isha</i>	医者
drink (v)	
<i>nomu</i>	飲む
fever	
<i>netsu</i>	熱
headache	
<i>zutsū</i>	頭痛
hangover	
<i>futsukayoi</i>	二日酔い
infection	
<i>kanō</i>	化膿
injection	
<i>chūsha</i>	注射
itch	
<i>kau</i>	かゆい
patient	
<i>kanja</i>	患者
poison	
<i>doku</i>	毒
rash	
<i>hasshin</i>	発疹
sprain (v)	
<i>kujiku</i>	挫く
sunburn	
<i>huyake</i>	日焼
swell (v)	
<i>hareru</i>	腫れる

test

kensa

検査

vomiting

modosu

もどす

Some Useful Phrases

How do you feel?

kibun wa ikaga desu ka?

気分はいかがですか

I don't feel well

kibun ga suguremasen

気分が優れません

Please call a doctor.

isha o yonde kudasai

医者を呼んで下さい

Please take us to a doctor.

isha ni tsurete itte kudasai

医者につれて行って下さい

It hurts here.

koko ga itai n desu

ここがいたいんです

I am nauseated.

haki ga shimasu

吐き気がします

Don't do it!

shinaide kudasai!

しないで下さい

Please call a police officer.

keisatsukan o yonde

警察官を呼んで下さい

kudasai

Time & Dates

Once you learn how to count in Japanese, telling time is no harder than in English. All you have to do is say the word for the numeral and add a simple suffix. For example, to say 5 o'clock, you say the word for 5, *go*, add the suffix meaning 'o'clock', *ji*, and you've got *go-ji*.

To express a fraction of an hour, combine the word for the hour with the word for the minutes. For example, 5.15 would be 5 o'clock, *go-ji*, + 15 minutes, *jūgofun*, or *go-ji jūgofun*.

The half hour is expressed by *han*, 5.30 would therefore be *go-ji han*.

Learn the military or 24 hour time system before arriving in Japan, because this system is used for train and bus schedules. 1300 is 1 o'clock, 1800 is 6 o'clock, etc.

Telling Time

What time is it?

nanji desu ka?

何時ですか

It is o'clock.

n desu

... 時です

1

ichi

2

ni

3

san

...

4		四
yon		
5		五
go		
6		六
roku		
7		七
shichi		
8		八
hachi		
9		九
ku		
10		十
jū		
11		十一
jūichi		
12		十二
jūni		

Minutes

1 minute		一分
ippun		
5 minutes		五分
gofun		
10 minutes		十分
juppun		
15 minutes		十五分
jūgofun		
30 minutes		三十分
sanjūppun		
45 minutes		四十五分
yonjūgofun		

Now it's 2.15

ima wa ni jūgofun desu

It's half past one

ichiji han desu

今は二時十五分です

一時半です

Some Useful Words

afternoon

gogo

午後

day

nichi

日

day after tomorrow

asatte

明後日

day before yesterday

ototoi

おととい

evening

ban

晩

half past

han

半

hour

jikan

時間

midnight

gozen reiji

午前零時

minute

fun

分

morning

asa

朝

night

yoru

夜

noon

shōgo

正午

now

ima

今

today	
<i>kyō</i>	今日
tomorrow	
<i>ashita</i>	明日
tonight	
<i>konban</i>	今晚
yesterday	
<i>kinō</i>	昨日

Weeks

last week	
<i>senshū</i>	先週
next week	
<i>raishū</i>	来週
this week	
<i>konshū</i>	今週
one week	
<i>isshūkan</i>	一週間
two weeks	
<i>nishūkan</i>	二週間

Dates

Although traditional holidays still fall according to the lunar calendar they originated with, the Japanese today use the Gregorian (solar) calendar. Sometimes you may hear of a year referred to as the '63rd (or other) year of Showa'. The Japanese also date years according to the beginning of eras which start when a new emperor takes over. Thus, with accession of Emperor Akihito to the Chrysanthemum Throne, 1989 became the first year of Heisei.

In Japanese, dates are written with the year first, followed by the month and lastly the day.

Months

Months in Japanese are simply referred to as the '1 month' (January), the '2-month' (February), etc

January	
<i>ichigatsu</i>	一月
February	
<i>nigatsu</i>	二月
March	
<i>sangatsu</i>	三月
April	
<i>shigatsu</i>	四月
May	
<i>gogatsu</i>	五月
June	
<i>rokugatsu</i>	六月
July	
<i>shichigatsu</i>	七月
August	
<i>hachigatsu</i>	八月
September	
<i>kugatsu</i>	九月
October	
<i>jūgatsu</i>	十月
November	
<i>jūichigatsu</i>	十一月
December	
<i>jūnigatsu</i>	十二月



Days

Today is

kyō wa . . . desu

今日は...です

Sunday

nichiyōbi

日曜日

Monday

getsuyōbi

月曜日

Tuesday

ka'yōbi

火曜日

Wednesday

suiyōbi

水曜日

Thursday

mokuyōbi

木曜日

Friday

kinyōbi

金曜日

Saturday

doyōbi

土曜日

holiday

kyūjitsu

休日

Some Useful Phrases

What day is today?

kyō wa nanyōbi desu ka?

今日は何曜日ですか

What's today's date?

kyō wa nannichi desu ka?

今日は何日ですか

What time is it?

nanji desu ka?

何時ですか

When will you come back?

itsu kaerimasu ka?

いつ帰りますか

Festivals

Most of Japan's festivals began as local celebrations by farmers wanting to express their awe of nature or their joy over completed harvests. Because of the lack of communication in pre-modern Japan most festivals retained their local nature and never became nation wide celebrations. Around the second week in August the *bon* festival features traditional dancing and celebrants welcome and send off the souls of their ancestors.

festival day

sa'jitsu

祭日

eve of festival

yōmatsuri

宵祭

festival parade

shinko

しんこ

palanquins

mukoshi

神輿

paper lanterns

chōchin

提燈

Seasons

spring

haru

春

summer

natsu

夏

autumn

aki

秋

winter

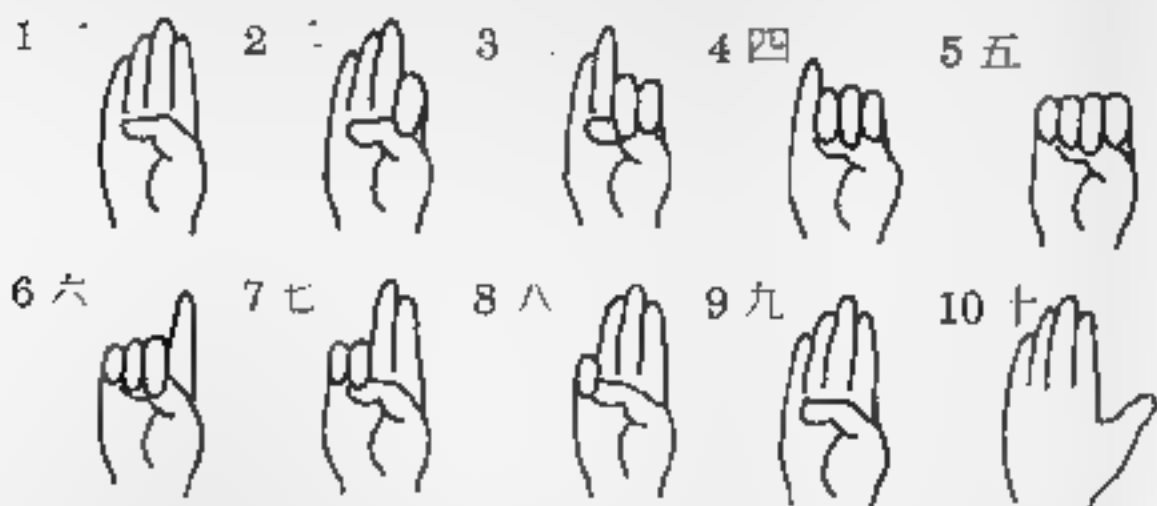
fuyu

冬



Numbers

Arabic numerals are usually used in Japan but sometimes, especially on menus, you will find the following Chinese characters (*kanji*) used:



The Japanese have a commonly used system of hand gestures for counting. Learn these gestures for the cardinal numbers and you can communicate without words.

Japanese has two counting systems, a native Japanese system, which only goes as high as '10', and a system borrowed from Chinese. This is not as confusing as it might sound at first, the rules concerning when to use the separate systems being very clear. As a general rule, Chinese numerals combine with 'counters' (see page 111), while Japanese numerals can be used in isolation when you don't know the 'counter' for an object:

There are two or three different ways to say the cardinal Chinese numbers, 4, 7, and 9. In the following table, the recommended spoken version is listed first.

Number	Chinese	Japanese
1	ichi 一	hitotsu 一 つ
2	ni 二	futatsu 二 つ
3	san 三	mitsu 三 つ
4	yon/shi 四	yottsu 四 つ
5	go 五	itsutsu 五 つ
6	roku 六	muttsu 六 つ
7	nana/shichi 七	nanatsu 七 つ
8	hachi 八	yattsu 八 つ
9	kyū/ku 九	kokonotsu 九 つ
10	jū 十	tō 十

Notice that numbers above 10 are generally made by a combination of the numbers from one to 10. To say 16 for example, you take the word for 10 (*jū*) and combine it with 6 (*roku*) to make 16 or *jūroku*. There are special words for 100 (*hyaku* 1000 *sen*), and 10,000 (*man*). Since one million is 100 x 10,000, it becomes *hyakuman*.

Number	Chinese	Japanese
11	jūichi 十一	じゅういち 十一
12	jūni 十二	じゅうに 十二
13	jūsan 十三	じゅうさん 十三
14	jūyon 十四	じゅうよん 十四
15	jūgo 十五	じゅうご 十五
16	jūroku 十六	じゅうろく 十六
17	jūshichi 十七	じゅうしち 十七
18	jūhachi 十八	じゅうはち 十八
19	jūku 十九	じゅうく 十九
20	niijū 二十	にじゅう 二十
30	sanjū 三十	さんじゅう 三十
40	yonjū 四十	よんじゅう 四十

50	<i>gojū</i>	五十
60	<i>rokkū</i>	六十
70	<i>shichijū</i>	七十
80	<i>hachijū</i>	八十
90	<i>kujū</i>	九十
100	<i>hyaku</i>	百
125	<i>hyaku niyūgo</i>	百二十五
200	<i>nihyaku</i>	二百
300	<i>sanbyaku</i>	三百
400	<i>yonbyaku</i>	四百
500	<i>gohyaku</i>	五百
600	<i>ropphyaku</i>	六百
700	<i>nanahyaku</i>	七百
800	<i>happyaku</i>	八百
900	<i>kyūhyaku</i>	九百
1000	<i>sen</i>	千
1367	<i>sensanbyaku rokkūshichū</i>	千三百六十七
2000	<i>nisen</i>	二千
3000	<i>sanzen</i>	三千
7000	<i>nanasen</i>	七千
10,000	<i>man</i> or <i>ichiman</i>	一万
30,000	<i>sanman</i>	三万
100,000	<i>jūman</i>	十万
1,000,000	<i>hyakuman</i>	百万

Ordinals

Ordinals are formed by adding *ban* to a number:

first	<i>ichiban</i>	一番
second	<i>niiban</i>	二番
third	<i>sanban</i>	三番

Others

once	<i>ichido</i>	一度
twice	<i>nido</i>	二度
three times	<i>sando</i>	三度

Counters

Most things you want to count in Japanese will require a counter after the number. In most cases the Chinese-derived numerals are used with the counters. Thus 'three books' becomes *san-satsu*.

books	<i>satsu</i>	冊
buildings	<i>ken</i>	けん
chopsticks	<i>zen</i>	ぜん
cups	<i>hai</i>	はい
fish	<i>hika</i>	ひき
houses	<i>ken</i>	けん
knives	<i>chō</i>	ちょう
letters	<i>tsū</i>	通
pencils	<i>hon</i>	本
people	<i>nin</i>	にん
shoes	<i>soku</i>	そく
vehicles	<i>dai</i>	だい
other items	<i>ko</i>	こ



Money

Japanese currency comes in yen and only yen, there is no Japanese equivalent to the distinction between dollars and cents. Coins are 10-yen coins, 100-yen coins, etc

satsu means 'bill' and *dama* is a coin

5 yen coin	<i>go-en dama</i>	五円だま
10 yen coin	<i>jū-en dama</i>	十円だま
50 yen coin	<i>gojū-en dama</i>	五十円だま
100 yen coin	<i>hyaku-en dama</i>	百円だま
500 yen coin	<i>gohyaku-en dama</i>	五百円だま
1000 yen bill	<i>sen-en satsu</i>	千円札
5000 yen bill	<i>gosen-en satsu</i>	五千円札
10,000 yen bill	<i>ichiman-en satsu</i>	万円札

Some Useful Phrases

How many?	<i>ikutsu desu ka?</i>	いくつですか
one dozen	<i>ichi-dāsu</i>	一ダース
a lot	<i>takusan</i>	沢山
too much	<i>sugimasu</i>	すぎます
enough	<i>jūbun desu</i>	充分です

Measurements

centimetre	<i>senchi</i>	センチ
litre	<i>rittoru</i>	リットル
metre	<i>mētoru</i>	メートル
millimetre	<i>muri</i>	ミリ
pound	<i>pondo</i>	ポンド
ounce	<i>onsu</i>	オンス

**Vocabulary****A**

accident - <i>jiko</i>	事故
address - <i>jūsho</i>	住所
aeroplane - <i>hikōk.</i>	飛行機
afternoon - <i>gogo</i>	午後
age - <i>nenrei</i>	年齢
agriculture - <i>nōgyō</i>	農業
airmail - <i>kōkūbin</i>	航空便
all - <i>zenbu</i>	全部
antibiotics - <i>taikinsei yakuzai</i>	抗生物質
antique - <i>kottōhin</i>	骨董品
appendix - <i>mōchō</i>	盲腸
apple - <i>ringo</i>	りんご
architect - <i>kenchūku</i>	建築家
art - <i>geijutsu</i>	芸術
ashtray - <i>haizara</i>	灰皿
Asia - <i>ajia</i>	アジア

■

baby - <i>nyūji</i>	乳児
bad - <i>warui</i>	悪い
baggage - <i>nimotsu</i>	荷物
bank - <i>ginkō</i>	銀行
barber - <i>tokoya</i>	床屋
bath - <i>furo</i>	風呂
bathroom - <i>otearai</i>	お手洗
beach - <i>hama</i>	浜

beans - *sayaingen*
 beautiful - *utsukushu*
 bed - *beddo*
 beef - *gyūniku*
 beer - *bīru*
 better - *motto yoi*
 bicycle - *jitensha*
 big - *okui*
 bill - *kanjō*
 bird - *kotori*
 birthday - *tanjōbi*
 blanket - *mōfu*
 bleed - *shukketsu suru*
 boat - *fune*
 body - *karada*
 book - *hon*
 bookshop - *honya*
 botanical garden -
shokubotsuen
 bottle - *bin*
 bowl - *bōru*
 boy - *otoko no ko*
 bread - *pan*
 breakfast - *chōhoku*
 bridge - *hashi*
 broken - *dakkyū shita*
 building - *tatemono*
 bus - *basu*
 business - *shōgyō*
 button - *botan*
 butter - *bata*
 buy (v) - *kau*

まいんげん
 美しい
 ベッド
 牛肉
 ビール
 もっとよい
 自転車
 大きい
 勘定
 小鳥
 誕生日
 毛布
 出血する
 船
 体
 本
 本屋
 植物園
 びん
 ボール
 男の子
 パン
 朝食
 橋
 脱臼した
 建物
 バス
 商業
 ボタン
 バター
 買う

C

cake - *kēki*
 calculator - *keisankei*
 car - *kuruma*
 carpet - *kāpetto*
 castle - *shiro*
 cave - *iwaya*
 change (money) - *kozeni*
 cheap - *yasui*
 cheese - *chīzu*
 chemist (drugstore)
yakkyoku
 chicken - *nuwatori*
 child - *ko*
 chopsticks - *hashi*
 church - *kyōkai*
 cigarettes - *tabako*
 city - *machi*
 closed - *heiten*
 coffee - *kōhī*
 cold - *samui*
 colour - *iro*
 come (v) - *kuru*
 constipated - *benpisuteiru*
 country (nation) - *kuni*
 crab - *kani*
 cup - *koppu*

ケーキ
 計算機
 車
 カーペット
 城
 岩屋
 小銭
 安い
 チーズ
 薬局

にわとり
 子
 箸
 教会
 タバコ
 町
 閉店
 コーヒー
 寒い
 色
 来る
 便秘している
 国
 かに
 コップ

D

dangerous - *abunai*
 dark - *kurai*
 decaffeinated - *kafein nuki*

危ない
 暗い
 カフェイン抜き

delicious - *oishii*
 deodorant - *deodoranto*
 dessert - *desāto*
 diarrhoea - *geri*
 dictionary - *jisho*
 difficult - *muzukashii*
 dining car - *shokudōsha*
 dinner - *yūshoku*
 doctor - *isha*
 dormitory - *kishukusha*
 dozen - *dāsu*
 duck - *ahiru*

E

early - *hayai*
 east - *higashi*
 easy - *yasashii*
 eat (v) - *taberu*
 egg - *tamago*
 embassy - *taishukan*
 empty - *kara*
 engineer - *gishi*
 enough - *jubun*
 envelope - *fūtō*
 evening - *ban*
 exit - *deguchi*
 expensive - *takai*

F

face - *kao*
 faint - *ki o ushinau*

おいしい
 デオドラント
 デザート
 下痢
 辞書
 難しい
 食堂車
 夕食
 医者
 寄宿舍
 ダース
 あひる

早い
 東
 やさしい
 食べる
 たまご
 大使館
 空
 技師
 充分
 封筒
 晩
 出口
 高い

顔
 気をうしなう

far - *tōi*
 ferry - *ferī*
 fever - *nettsu*
 film (photo) - *hirumu*
 film (movie) - *eiga*
 find - *mitsukeru*
 fish - *sakana*
 flight - *bin*
 flu - *infuruenza*
 fork - *fōku*
 full - *ippai*
 furniture - *kagu*

G

garden - *niwa*
 girl - *onna no ko*
 glasses - *megane*
 go - *iku*
 good - *yoi*
 goodbye - *sayōnara*
 gram - *guramu*
 gynaecologist - *fujinkai*

H

hairdresser - *rihatsushitsu*
 ham - *hamu*
 handicrafts - *shukōgeihin*
 hand-made - *tezukuri no*
 head - *atama*
 heat - *atsusa*
 heavy - *omoi*
 help (v) - *tetsudau*

遠い
 フェリー
 熱
 フィルム
 映画
 見つける
 魚
 便
 インフルエンザ
 フォーク
 一杯
 家具

庭
 女の子
 眼鏡
 行く
 良い
 さようなら
 グラム
 婦人科医

理髪室
 ハム
 手工芸品
 手作りの
 頭
 暑さ
 重い
 手伝う

here - *koko*
 hill - *oka*
 hitchhiking - *hitchi haiku*
 honey - *hachimitsu*
 hospital - *byōin*
 hot - *atsui*
 hotel - *hoteru*
 hour - *jikan*
 how - *dō*

I
 ice cream - *aisū kuriimu*
 immediately - *sugu*
 indigestion - *shōkafuryō*
 information desk -
 annai gakari
 injection - *chūsha*
 interesting - *omoshiroi*
 international call -
 kokusai tsūwa
 interpreter - *tsūyaku*
 island - *shima*
 ivory - *zōge*

J
 jade - *hisui*
 Japanese - *nihongo*
 Japanese garden -
 nihon teien
 jeans - *jīpan*
 jewellery - *hōseki*
 journalist - *jānaristo*

ここ
 丘
 ヒッチハイク
 蜂蜜
 病院
 暑い
 ホテル
 時間
 どう

アイスクリーム
 すぐ
 消化不良
 案内係
 注射
 面白い
 国際通話
 通訳
 島
 象牙

翡翠
 日本語
 日本庭園
 ジーパン
 宝石
 ジャーナリスト

K
 key - *kagi*
 knife - *naifu*

L
 lake - *mizuumi*
 late - *osoi*
 lawyer - *bengoshi*
 leather - *kawa*
 left - *hidari*
 lens - *lensu*
 letter - *tegami*
 library - *toshokan*
 light (weight) - *karui*
 look - *miru*
 love - *ai*
 luggage - *tenimotsu*
 lunch - *chūshoku*

M
 map - *chizu*
 marry - *kekkon suru*
 matches - *matchi*
 milk - *miruku*
 minute - *fun*
 money - *okane*
 month - *tsuki*
 morning - *asa*
 motor bike - *mota baiku*
 music - *ongaku*
 museum - *hakubutsukan*
 mutton - *maton*

鍵
 ナイフ

湖
 遅い
 弁護士
 皮
 左
 レンズ
 手紙
 図書館
 軽い
 見る
 愛
 手荷物
 昼食

地図
 結婚する
 マッチ
 ミルク
 分
 お金
 月
 朝
 モーターバイク
 音楽
 博物館
 マトン

N

name - <i>namae</i>	名前
near - <i>chikai</i>	近い
needle - <i>hari</i>	針
new - <i>atarashii</i>	新しい
noisy - <i>urusai</i>	うるさい
noodles - <i>soba/udon</i>	そばうどん
north - <i>kita</i>	北
now - <i>ima</i>	今
number - <i>bangō</i>	番号

O

old - <i>furui</i>	古い
open (v) - <i>akimasu</i>	開きます
operation - <i>shujutsu</i>	手術
optician - <i>meganeya</i>	眼鏡屋
or - <i>aruwaka</i>	あるいはか
orange - <i>orenji</i>	オレンジ
other - <i>hoka</i>	他

P

pagoda - <i>tō</i>	塔
pain - <i>itami</i>	いたみ
paintings - <i>kaiga</i>	絵画
parcel - <i>kozutsumi</i>	小包
park - <i>kōen</i>	公園
passport - <i>pasupōto</i>	パスポート
peach - <i>momo</i>	もも
pepper - <i>koshō</i>	胡椒
persimmon - <i>kaki</i>	かき
plate - <i>sara</i>	皿
platform - <i>purattohōmu</i>	プラットホーム

police - <i>keisatsu</i>	警察
porcelain - <i>jiki</i>	磁器
pork - <i>butaniku</i>	豚肉
post office - <i>yūbinkyoku</i>	郵便局
postcards - <i>hagaki</i>	葉書
poste restante - <i>kyokudome yūbin</i>	局留郵便
prescription - <i>shohōsen</i>	処方箋
province - <i>ken</i>	県

Q

quick - <i>hayai</i>	速い
quiet - <i>shizuka na</i>	静かな

R

railway - <i>tetsudō</i>	鉄道
rain - <i>ame</i>	雨
razor - <i>kamisori</i>	かみそり
real - <i>hontō</i>	本当
receipt - <i>ryōshūsho</i>	領収書
record - <i>rekōdo</i>	レコード
rent (v) - <i>kariru</i>	借る
repair - <i>naosu</i>	直す
rest - <i>yasumu</i>	休む
restaurant - <i>restoran</i> or <i>shokudō</i>	レストラン 食堂
return - <i>kaeru</i>	帰る
rice (cooked) - <i>gohan</i>	ごはん
right (side) - <i>migi</i>	右
river - <i>kawa</i>	川
road - <i>michi</i>	道
room - <i>heya</i>	部屋

S

salt - *shio*
 scenery - *keshiki*
 seconds (time) - *niban*
 shampoo - *shampū*
 shoe laces - *kutsu himo*
 shop - *mise*
 shopping - *shoppingu*
 shower - *shawa*
 shut - *shimaru*
 signature - *shomei*
 silk - *kinu*
 sleep (v) - *nemuru*
 slowly - *yukkuri*
 small - *chiisai*
 smoke (v) - *tabako o sū*
 snack - *sunakku*
 snow (v) - *yuki ga furu*
 soap - *sekken*
 soup - *sūpu*
 south - *minami*
 soya sauce - *shōyu*
 speak (v) - *hanasu*
 spoon - *supūn*
 stale - *shinsen de nai*
 stamps - *kitte*
 stomach - *i*
 stop (v) - *tomaru*
 street - *tōri*
 student - *gakusei*
 sugar - *satō*

塩
 景色
 二番
 シャンプー
 靴ひも
 店
 ショッピング
 シャワー
 締る
 署名
 絹
 眠る
 ゆっくり
 小さい
 タバコを吸う
 スナック
 雪が降る
 せっけん
 スープ
 南
 しょう油
 話す
 スプーン
 新鮮でない
 切手
 胃
 止まる
 通り
 学生
 砂糖

sweet - *amai*
 swim (v) - *oyogu*

甘い
 泳ぐ

T

table - *tēburu*
 teacher - *sensei*
 telegram - *denpō*
 telephone - *denwa*
 tell - *oshieru*
 temple - *tera*
 thanks - *arigatō gozaimasu*
 theatre - *gekijo*
 there - *soko*
 thread - *ito*
 throat - *nodo*
 tickets - *kippu*
 toast - *tōsuto*
 today - *kyō*
 toilet - *benjo*
 tomorrow - *ashita/asu*
 tooth - *ha*
 toothbrush - *haburashi*
 toothpick - *tomayōji*
 toy - *omocha*
 trade - *bōeki*
 train - *densha*
 travel - *ryoko suru*

テーブル
 先生
 電報
 電話
 教える
 寺
 ありがとうございます
 劇場
 そこ
 糸
 喉
 切符
 トースト
 今日
 便所
 明日
 歯
 歯ブラシ
 爪楊子
 おもちや
 貿易
 電車
 旅行する

U

ulcer - *kaiyō*
 umbrella - *kasa*

潰瘍
 傘

underground (subway) - <i>chikatetsu</i>	地下鉄
understand - <i>wakaru</i>	わかる
university - <i>daigaku</i>	大学
upstairs - <i>kaijō</i>	階上

V

vaginal infection - <i>chitsuen</i>	膣炎
vegetables - <i>yasai</i>	野菜
vegetarian - <i>saishokushugi sha</i>	菜食主義者
venereal disease - <i>seibyō</i>	性病
village - <i>mura</i>	村
vinegar - <i>su</i>	酢
vomit - <i>modosu</i>	もどす

W

wage - <i>kyūryō</i>	給料
wait - <i>matsu</i>	待つ
waiter - <i>ueitā</i>	ウェイター
waitress - <i>ueitoresu</i>	ウェイトレス
want (v) - <i>hossuru</i>	欲する
watermelon - <i>suika</i>	西瓜
weather - <i>tenki</i>	天気
week - <i>shū</i>	週
west - <i>nishi</i>	西
what - <i>nani</i>	何
when - <i>itsu</i>	いつ
where - <i>doko</i>	どこ
which - <i>dore dochira</i>	どれ / どちら
who - <i>dare</i>	誰
why - <i>dōshite</i>	どうして

wine - <i>uain</i>	ワイン
woman - <i>josē</i>	女性
writing paper - <i>binsen</i>	便箋

Y

year - <i>toshi</i>	年
yesterday - <i>kinō</i>	昨日
yoghurt - <i>yōgurutu</i>	ヨーグルト
young - <i>wakai</i>	若い

Z

zen temple - <i>zendera</i>	禪寺
zoo - <i>dōbutsuen</i>	動物園
zoom lens - <i>zūmu renzu</i>	ズームレンズ

